

Arafat sends condemnation to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has written to U.S. President Bill Clinton regretting and rejecting extremist attacks on civilians in Israel, the State Department said on Wednesday. The letter, sent from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunisia, was in response to U.S. demands for condemnation of the car-bombing that killed seven Israelis in Afula on April 6. It was not clear whether it was sent after Wednesday's attack on a bus that killed six Israelis. "Obviously, we think all parties should condemn violent acts against innocent people," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry. He said Mr. Arafat "regretted and strongly rejected such actions because they were directed against innocent civilians." Mr. McCurry did not say whether the statement amounted to the condemnation that the U.S. had sought from Mr. Arafat. But he said the statement was stronger than one Mr. Arafat made shortly after the Afula attack. Mr. McCurry described both attacks as acts of terrorism and condemned them, along with attacks on Palestinians.

Jordan Times

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Israeli wounds 4 students in Jericho

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank (R) — An Israeli civilian shot and wounded four Palestinian students in front of their school in the occupied West Bank town of Jericho on Wednesday, a student said. A 16-year-old youth who was wounded in the shoulder by bullet fragments said an Israeli civilian in a petrol truck sprayed bullets at the students in front of a high school and fled. The Jericho hospital confirmed four students were admitted but said they were hit by rubber bullets. The shootings occurred before a bomb killed six people on an Israeli bus in the central town of Hadera. A Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at a mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron on Feb. 25.

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Bus blast kills 6 in Hadera

Hamas claims second attack in 7 days within Israel

HADERA, Israel (Agencies) — An apparent suicide bomb planted by opponents of Israel-Palestinian peace talks exploded inside a bus jammed with soldiers and civilians Wednesday, killing six and wounding 28.

Senior officials warned that two such attacks in a week could mean the start of a gruesome pattern that would be difficult to combat in Israel's interior. Militant groups vowed they would carry out at least three more suicide bombings as revenge for the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre.

Officials reacted quickly to try to reassure the Israeli public, whose support for the peace talks is largely based on the idea that it will bring security inside Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dispatched additional troops to seal off the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank, where the bomb was believed constructed, but said he would continue with peace talks even in the face of future attacks.



An Israeli soldier examines a body for more bombs next to an exploded bus in the Hadera bus station on Wednesday (AFP photo)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with a group of journalists touring the Middle East on a fact-finding mission organised by the U.N. (Petra photo)

King warns of more strife if peace talks remain stagnant

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday warned that the Middle East would be facing more tension that would lead to violence unless progress was achieved towards a just and durable peace in the region.

He said that efforts must be made to overcome the dangerous obstacles impeding the peace process.

The king urged all countries interested in seeing peace prevailing in the region to exert more efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

Addressing a team of 12 journalists from Europe and Japan who are visiting Jordan on a fact-finding mission, the King said Jordan joined the peace process convinced that it would lead to a durable and just peace in a region whose peoples have suffered for many decades from tension and conflict.

The King said Jordan seeks the implementation of U.N. resolutions through the peace process and at the same time is determined to provide backing for the Palestinians in their quest to regain their rights in their homeland.

King Hussein welcomed the journalists to the Kingdom and briefed them on the development schemes and the path of democracy pursued by the country.

The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by the King's advisors. Earlier in the day, the journalists visited the Baqaa refugee camp near Amman and were briefed on the services offered to its residents by the government and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The team, which is accompanied by a number of United Nations information officials, has been meeting with Jordanian officials and touring refugee camps in the country.

Arafat condemns 'extremists on both sides'

STRASBOURG, France (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat hit out at the bombing of a bus in the Israeli town of Hadera on Wednesday, calling it "an attack on innocent Israeli civilians."

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was speaking in an unscheduled addition to his first speech to the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe, in which he also bitterly attacked Israel's "policy of mass killings and detention" and said it was delaying peace.

Mr. Arafat said he had learned of the latest attack, an apparent retaliation for February's massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Palestinians in Hebron, when he arrived in Strasbourg.

He said it "strikes at the heart of the peace process."

He said he did not know who carried out the bombing, but linked it to the Hebron attack and to a suicide bombing by

Hammas members in the town of Afula a week ago when seven Israelis were killed. Hamas had said there would be further such attacks.

"These actions are unfortunately directed only against innocent people, and these innocent people are on both sides, Palestinians and Israelis," he said.

Mr. Arafat, who was attacked by Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Wednesday morning for failing to condemn the Afula killing, said Israeli counter-measures after Hebron had prompted "regrettable reactions, which we reject, from Palestinian extremists against Israeli citizens, as has happened in Afula."

But, wary of losing support to Hamas as autonomy negotiations drag on with few tangible results, he also said Israel had created the conditions for such attacks.

He noted that Wednesday should have been the day for the final withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho under an outline deal signed in Washington in September.

"It's the delay in implementing the decisions (of the autonomy talks) that causes these catastrophes because it gives the extremists the possibility to have 'good reason' to act," he said, according to a translation of his remarks from Arabic.

In his prepared text he said attacks on Palestinians were "a result of deliberate negligence and abominable complicity between certain units of the Israeli army and the extremist, fanatic and racist settlers."

Mr. Arafat told the parliamentary assembly of the 32-nation council, which promotes democracy and human rights, that the autonomy talks had been "frustrating and discouraging."

He also urged Israel to immediately open talks on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories or risk a collapse of the overall peace process.

Mr. Arafat blamed "Israeli reticence and hesitation" for missing the troop withdrawal deadline and said the settlements continue to threaten an overall peace settlement.

Austrian president ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil left Amman on Wednesday after concluding a three-day state visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Klestil was seen off at the airport by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Royal Court chief, the King's advisors, senior government and army officials, and the ambassadors of European countries in Amman.

During the visit, members of the delegation accompanying Dr. Klestil held talks with their Jordanian counterparts on means of promoting Jordanian-Austrian relations, especially in fields related to tourism, developing water sources and joint investment projects.

Dr. Klestil stressed in statements to the press his country's support for Jordan politically and economically.

Before his departure Wednesday, Dr. Klestil visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and toured its various parts.

Dr. Klestil said one of the aims of his visit to Jordan was to bolster cooperation in tourism between the two countries.

He said a specialised delegation that accompanied him held talks with Jordanian officials in this regard, focusing in their talks on the prospect of launching joint tourism ventures.

Government assures IAF of justice for detained Islamists

By Nermeen Marad
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Wednesday said it had sound and convincing reasons for detaining 10 Islamists being investigated for membership of an illegal group believed to be planning terrorist acts.

All of the arrests, as specified in the list provided by the IAF, have been made since the beginning of this year.

Ten people have been recently arrested for what security sources said was establishing a "group planning terrorist activities." The sources, quoted by the Al Rai Arabic daily Wednesday, said the group had "Islamist ties" and was planning a series of armed robberies of shops, taxis and at a later stage banking institutions to collect funds for weapons.

The security sources said the group was headed by a 38-year-old man whom it did not name.

Amman Deputy Hamzeh Mansour, the spokesman for the IAF's parliamentary bloc, told the Jordan Times that their meeting with the premier dealt with the detention of about 70 people on charges of belonging to groups to destabilise the kingdom's security or carry out terrorist attacks.

However, informed sources maintain that the conversation mainly dealt with the detention of these last 10 Islamists. Mr. Mansour said that the Monday meeting came after several similar meetings with the prime minister over the detention of illegal Islamist groups.

Asked why the IAF deputies decided to publicise this meeting with the prime minister and not the ones before, Mr. Mansour said: "We had received promises of quick releases and ensuring humane and good treatment of the detainees."

But, he added, they went to see the prime minister "because we felt that the issue still stands."

In a copy of a memorandum released Wednesday, the IAF asked the premier to interject on behalf of 72 detainees in Jordanian prisons and ensure that they receive treatment compatible with accepted human rights standards.

The deputies said that while they did not condemn the actions of the detainees, they wanted to "protect the dignity and freedoms of citizens as guaranteed by the Islamic Sharia and our constitution."

Mr. Mansour, in his telephone interview with the Jordan Times, said that the delegation also wanted the government to release the detainees when investigations indicate that they were not party to any illegal activity.

The IAF delegation which met with Dr. Majali was composed of Mr. Mansour, Amman Deputy Ibrahim Keilani, Irbid Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekkour, Amman Deputy Hamman Said, Balqa Deputy Mohammad Oweidah and Karak Deputy Ahmad Kassabeh.

"The delegation briefed the prime minister on the wave of arrests of citizens at this time and what accompanied these arrests in practices that do not tally with citizens' freedoms and rights as guaranteed by the Islamic Sharia and our constitution," the IAF said in a statement Wednesday.

The prime minister promised to study the memorandum and deal with it positively stressing that he will ensure justice for the detainees.

"The prime minister promised to study the memorandum and deal with it positively stressing that he will ensure justice for the detainees."

Rebels battle their way into Rwanda's capital

KIGALI, Rwanda (Agencies) — Machine-gun and artillery fire rocked this Central African capital Wednesday as rebels and government troops fought pitched battles. After a week of fighting, the army was reported running low on ammunition.

More than 100,000 desperate refugees carrying their belongings on their backs streamed out of the city ahead of the ethnic warfare. Foreigners already have nearly completed their exodus from this small Central African country.

In one of the most dramatic evacuations, a heavily armed column of Belgian troops rescued 18 foreigners Wednesday morning from the Ndere psychiatric hospital north of the airport.

As the convoy arrived, 500 Tutsi refugees camped in one of the compound's buildings rushed out with their hands up, pleading for help.

Sarajevo ceasefire violated

SARAJEVO (R) — Sniping and machinegun fire broke out along a tense section of Sarajevo's Serb-Muslim front line on Wednesday in a serious violation of the city's two-month-old ceasefire.

Serb snipers shot into the centre of the Bosnian capital and machinegun fire shattered the calm around the landmark Holiday Inn, prompting U.N. peacekeeping soldiers to reinforce a major intersection with machine-guns mounted on armoured cars.

The shooting broke out at 5:40 p.m. (1540 GMT), forcing people strolling past the Holiday Inn or waiting for trams to race for cover.

Explosions shook the area and smoke rose from near the Vrbanka bridge below a front-line cemetery. The outbursts lasted for about 45 minutes.

Serb forces sealed off the city from surrounding hillsides when Bosnia's war broke out in April 1992 and bombarded it with artillery, killing and wounding more than 60,000 people in the next 20 months.

The Serbs stopped shelling the city in February when the Serbs withdrew their heavy weaponry beyond a 20-kilometre wide U.N. exclusion zone following a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) threat of air strikes (see page 8).

But Serb snipers and machine-guns remained entrenched and the capital is still under blockade.

Between the majority Hutus and the Tutsis, once the ruling elite of the former Belgian colony.

Mr. Ratayisire said some 3,000 rebels around the capital could handle the situation, but said other forces from the 20,000-strong rebel army would soon also be moved down.

"We are targeting military positions such as barracks, we are not firing into residential areas," he added.

Western troops still in the capital after organising an evacuation of hundreds of foreigners said government forces were demoralised and ill-disciplined and said they had little hope of repulsing the advance.

The RPF are advancing. They infiltrate at night, particularly around dawn, fight with government troops and then move on. They are good infantry, they seem very well trained," said Belgian paratroop commander Captain Christophe Onraet.

They are fighting for control of a city soaked in the blood of thousands slaughtered in a tribal bloodbath sparked by last Wednesday's killing of Hutu President Juvénal Habyarimana.

Thousands of Rwandans were reported to be fleeing the country to neighbouring states. One journalist said she saw a 13-kilometre river of people heading out of the capital.

Journalists staying in the downtown Hotel Mille Colines reported windows were shattered by the third of heavy shells landing all around.

Red Cross officials said hospitals were flooded with casualties in the tribal clashes.

The hospital and adjacent convent had been besieged since Tuesday night by Hutu gangs armed with clubs.

The Belgians only had room for 18 foreigners — five brothers and two sons of the Belgian Charite Order, along with a mentally disturbed Italian woman, two other Belgians and their families.

Legislature summoned to session

By Ayman Al Safadi
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament will on Sunday begin an extraordinary session whose agenda will be restricted to mostly legislative matters.

His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday issued a royal decree summoning the legislature to the extraordinary session, which was also requested by more than 50 deputies at the end of the 12th Parliament's first ordinary session in March.

Parliamentary sources said the controversial draft sales tax law will take up most of the session, whose duration was not specified in the royal decree.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the agenda of the session will include completion of a number of draft laws referred to the Lower House by the government during the ordinary session as well as discussing a number of reports that the House's various committees were supposed to make to the house.

Parliamentary sources said the agenda of the new session excluded discussion of "national issues" that were demanded by deputies in their call for the session.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies said they would not comment on the session until they had been informed of all the items on its agenda but said the exclusion of debate on "national issues" would amount to disregard for the deputies.

Independent Deputy Saleh Isbeidat noted the King "has the constitutional right to set the agenda of the session," while Deputy Sa'd Havel Srour said it would be impractical to include issues that are not clearly defined.

"When you say you want to discuss political issues you must specify what these issues are. But you cannot leave the terms floating and undefined," said Mr. Srour.

The IAF deputies, who had pushed for an extension of the ordinary session so that the House's agenda would not be set by the government, reportedly wanted to include political issues in the agenda in order to be able to address developments in the peace process at a time when they described as crucial for Jordan.

The extraordinary session is expected to witness heated debates over the sales tax draft law, which is opposed by the IAF and leftist deputies. The IAF lawmakers boycotted the last meeting of the House in the ordinary session to protest the inclusion of the sales tax law on its agenda and are expected to fight it when the House debates it.

"But if those who reject the tax have a better alternative let them present it to the House," said Mr. Srour, who is spokesman of the Financial Committee of the House.

Mr. Srour rejected speculation that the House's expected approval of the sales tax law would lead to further public dissatisfaction with the legislature, saying that the Financial Committee amended the draft law to protect the interests of all sectors.

"The Financial Committee has amended the draft law to make it as satisfactory as possible to all sectors," he said.

The government presented the draft law to the House in February as an essential part of the economic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sources say the country has no choice but to introduce the tax if it wanted to succeed in its efforts to reschedule its debts and get new loans.

(Continued on page 5)

On day autonomy was to start, doubters await signs

People under occupation sceptical if self-rule will be implemented at all

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

JERICHO, occupied West Bank — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in this would-be capital of Palestinian autonomy was locked up tight Tuesday, the eve of the original date for starting self-rule.

Abdul Karim Sidr, the local PLO leader, has not set foot in the place in almost two months.

"We are at the 13th of April and nothing happened, no actual steps on the ground to make people sure the agreement is alive," said Mr. Sidr, calculating that public support for the accord has dropped from 85 per cent to near zero.

"People liked the agreement because it included a schedule for the Israel withdrawal. That schedule has been dropped," he added.

Here and throughout the occupied territories, the giddy flag-waving of September has been replaced by a bitter aftertaste despite signs that change is close. Negotiators predict an agreement in early May, the Israeli forces made a very public display of moving out tonnes of equipment and the list of transfer details from the Cairo talks grows daily.

But there has been little change in people's day-to-day lives. If anything, living conditions decayed due to measures to stop violence from both sides. That has taken its toll on PLO leader Yasser Arafat's standing, along with an increasingly savage struggle for influence within the ranks of his Fatah faction as the date for the arrival of a self-rule government nears.

Mr. Arafat ordered branch offices like the one in Jericho closed because there were almost daily outbreaks of shooting or other violence in them throughout the occupied territories.

"People are frightened, they don't know where things are going, who will be in charge. There is a lot of pressure to maintain turf," said Khalil Shikaki, director of a West Bank research centre.

The anticipated arrival of an outside leadership from Tunis has many fearing that those inside who have been running the uprising against Israel for years will be shunted aside.

"They are not accustomed to democracy, to sharing things with the internal leadership," said Said Kanan, who helped initiate the autonomy talks.

One of the most glaring reasons people doubt that there will be an accord is the lack of preparations on the ground for a Palestinian leadership. Examples are legion.

The 7,000 police officers from outside are expected to bring about 30,000 family members with them, the largest group ever, yet there has been no construction of housing or additional schools.

Jericho, as the seat of a government, will need between 500 and 1,000 phone lines more than the 750 now present. It could take nine months and \$4 million to install them.

"The PLO seems to ignore the need to build a country. They are concerned about politics, about getting here," said Mr. Kanan.

Much of the blame is directed at Mr. Arafat himself for refusing to delegate enough authority, which, among other things has Western and Arab donors reluctant to release any of the \$2.4 billion in promised aid.

Violence repeatedly interrupts change. Since the signing, 154 Palestinians and 35 Israelis have died in clashes that held up the talks repeatedly.

But Israel is pressing on with the first stage. It dismantled the infrastructure of 11 bases and detention centres in the Gaza Strip plus the central police station in Jericho. Even the kitchens are gone, with the soldiers running the operations centres in bivouacs that can be dismantled within five days of an agreement, Israel says.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, is lying low in the autonomy areas, hoping the PLO will fail on its own. But it vows to continue the fight against Israel and the Jewish settlers

in the occupied territories, setting the stage for Israel to stop the spread of autonomy beyond Jericho and Gaza unless Mr. Arafat cracks down on his opposition.

In the meantime there is much uncharted turf. Tuesday was supposed to be Mr. Arafat's day. Instead the gears are still grinding slowly towards self-rule.

"The process is hurting him. It's a gradual transition, its vague, its uncertain. It all comes back on his head. He gets all the blame, but at the same time he'll get all the credit for the good," said Mr. Shikaki.

Following are some agreements reached so far in PLO-Israel negotiations in Cairo, according to a status report Tuesday by negotiators:

— The Palestinian police force will have 9,000 members, 2,000 from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho and 7,000 from outside the territories. Of the outsiders, 6,000 will move in immediately after the signing of the agreement, and 1,000 three months later.

— They will be armed with Kalashnikov rifles, and officers will have pistols. The force also will have armoured vehicles and machine guns to protect important sites.

— Agreement has been reached on a schedule for freeing 5,000 of the 8,500 Palestinians held in Israeli jails; 2,500 will be released immediately after the signing and 2,500 after the Palestinian authority is installed in the territories.

— The PLO says there is agreement for Israel to allow return of about 50 exiles in next few days, including Akram Haniyeh, who is the PLO man responsible for the territories.

Topics to be negotiated when talks resume Sunday include water rights, civilian administration, legal jurisdiction over criminal offenders, and crossing points from Gaza and Jericho to Israel.

Final negotiations on five or six civilian topics, such as broadcast frequencies for Palestinian radio and TV, and cooperation on civilian lawsuits, could be put off until after the signing of the pact.



SETTLER'S VICTIM: Palestinian women hold a portrait of three-month pregnant Fatma Khalayfeh, 18, who was shot to death in her home in Al Jib north of Jerusalem by a Jewish settler on Tuesday. The dead woman's eight-month-old daughter is held by a family member (AFP photo)

settler on Tuesday. The dead woman's eight-month-old daughter is held by a family member (AFP photo)

Stone-throwers, negotiators are worlds apart

CAIRO (R) — Stone-throwers in the occupied territories and negotiators in Cairo may both be battling the Israelis in their different ways, but more and more Palestinians see them as being in different worlds these days.

"The Israelis kill us and Nabil Shaath shakes hands with them in Cairo," said one bitter old man in Hebron last month.

He was watching Israeli soldiers rocket a house in the heart of the city, killing three Palestinians, when news broadcasts showed a smiling Shaath shaking hands with his Israeli counterpart Amnon Shalev and announcing a compromise deal for security in Hebron to restart peace talks proper.

While improvised street barricades and shards of glass litter the urban battlegrounds of Hebron and Gaza, elaborate chandeliers and sophisticated

screening devices bedeck the foyer of the Gezira Sheraton Hotel where Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been negotiating on self-rule in the past few weeks.

Many Palestinians inside the territories unload their sense of powerlessness onto their negotiators, blaming them for failing to produce any real results from six months of talks.

Charges that Palestinian negotiators are weak, corrupt, and even traitors to the cause are common in the West Bank and Gaza, even among those who say they support peace and the PLO.

Dr. Shaath, an affable, self-made businessman with no fighting background, comes in for particularly harsh attacks. Among the conspiracy theorists of the West Bank and Gaza, he is often seen as seducing PLO Chairman Yas-

ser Arafat into compromising the national cause for which millions have suffered.

Television footage of the Nile and Cairo's spectacular skyscraper horizon, sleek motorcades and security men in suits does not go down well in Gaza's slums or Hebron after a day's strict curfew and more bloody clashes with the Israeli army.

In fact, the atmosphere at the talks is often tense. Delegates lurch between optimism and pessimism in marathon negotiating sessions that can last 15 hours a day.

"It's like an addiction," said Ameer, a PLO security officer drafted in from Headquarters in Tunis to cover the talks. "I leave for work at eight in the morning. When I get back at one in the morning, I turn on the news to see what they're saying."

"We know people inside feel

like this, that we're eating good food in a five-star hotel while they starve. But they don't see our struggles. It's completely exhausting," he added.

Palestinian negotiators, in contrast to the Israeli side, are squeezed on all sides.

They face Israelis who they say often treat them in an off-hand manner. They have to react quickly to outbreaks of violence and are rarely certain of what Mr. Arafat wants. All the time, they know millions of Palestinian eyes watch their every move.

Israeli negotiators suffer no such isolation. Many of them are high-ranking officers in Israel's national army. They fly in and out of Cairo on Israeli planes from an Israeli airport, and mainly brief Israeli journalists who broadcast their views on television and in the next day's Hebrew press.

Arab analysts describe 'new openness' in Gulf

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — The mass media, and CNN and BBC in particular, have ushered in a new openness within Gulf societies, according to Bahrain's Minister of Information Tariq Almoayed, who adds that the local media now needs to take up its "burden of responsibility" if it is to genuinely become the Arab World's fourth estate.

"Media has to be respected by the people if it is to join legislative, executive and judicial branches of government" in public service, he said in an April 8 panel discussion at the Georgetown University Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) 19th Annual Conference.

Joining Mr. Almoayed in the discussion on "Whither the Middle East?" was Kuwait's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Mohammad Al Sabah and Jihad Al Khazen, editor of the Saudi-owned, London-based newspaper Al Hayat.

Mr. Almoayed said that Bahrainis realise that open access to international media could have short-term problems, but that in the long run, "it would be beneficial and not really harmful." Recalling that Bahrain hosted Western jour-

nalists during the Iran/Iraq war and the Gulf crisis, Mr. Almoayed noted that such openness "has been a profitable exercise." Bahrain was the first Arab country to openly argue that "bringing the world's media and networks to our people could be directed toward mutual understanding and better perception of problems," the official added.

A former member of the Bahraini Constituent Assembly until his appointment as minister of information in 1973, Mr. Almoayed has sponsored new public avenues of information in Bahrain including CNN and BBC. One of his personal priorities is the preservation of Bahrain's natural resources and cultural heritage, and the "national and international dissemination of knowledge about both."

"The (television) networks are turning the world into a small village... People of the Middle East have to accept that they are part of the new world order, and should work with others to benefit from multinational cooperation on peace," he argued. In the post-Gulf war order, Americans "have a new position as leaders of the new alliance." One of the biggest gains of the war, he said, was that countries know

that "boundaries are still to be respected... and that the world would not tolerate military invasion as a solution to political disputes."

Editor and columnist Jihad Al Khazen was less optimistic about the effects of the Gulf war victory on the regional peace process, and predicted that anything short of a "full peace" would not endure. "Will peace last? Peace because of political pressure will not solve the region's ills," he warned. On the other hand, it could "compound existing problems," as some Arab or Iranian elements would then "find it easy to attack a hollow or an unjust peace."

Mr. Al Khazen noted that while peace may improve living conditions for peoples of the region, it will not solve "what has become one of the most endemic problems... entrenched regimes. Iraq's Saddam Hussein 'seems to have been there for ages,' the journalist added, and many other Arab leaders have also ruled beyond 'their shelf life.' Any future elected representation, therefore 'must be held accountable to the people.'"

Ambassador Al Sabah of Kuwait, however, agreed with Bahrain's Almoayed that the allied defeat of Iraq "is not the

end of the story, but could very well be the beginning of a happy ending."

Underlining that "Arab reconciliation should be based on the lessons of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait," he argued that "calls to bypass this reality will not work," pointing out that the Iraqi Baath regime has flagrantly violated numerous agreements between Iraq and its neighbours.

Ambassador Al Sabah, a professor on leave from the faculty of economics of Kuwait University, is also chairman of the economic committee of Kuwait's Higher Planning Council and founder of the Kuwait-America Foundation.

As an economist, the ambassador said he is quite optimistic about the future of Kuwait. "The vast crude oil reserves to be found in our region make the countries of the Arabian Gulf of vital importance to the economic stability of the world."

But to answer where the Arab World is going, "we must first fully comprehend the present," he said. "It is imperative that the Arab World draw the painful lessons from this tragedy and undertake the required fundamental reforms to

British teach beat to PLO bobbies

NON-LETHAL riot control equipment and courses in community policing are Britain's contribution to the Palestinian policemen who are about to start one of the world's toughest beats as the Israeli army withdraws from Gaza and Jericho.

With the deployment of the first officers awaiting the outcome of talks in Cairo between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, British officials revealed that 20 senior commanders are to undergo training at Bramshill police college in Hampshire.

The experience in Northern Ireland, interrogation techniques, treatment of offenders, police accountability and human rights will be on the syllabus.

But in an area where law and order are in short supply and guns plentiful, the main focus will inevitably be operations. The Palestinians will study the use of minimum force in public disorder, and visit the Metropolitan Police riot control training centre at Hounslow.

Britain will also supply 200 sets of body armour, shields, batons and helmets.

The police force is of enormous significance as the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty in the liberated areas, and partly compensates for the limited scope of the initial Israeli withdrawal after 27 years of occupation.

The police face the extremely difficult task of dealing with the continued presence of armed Israeli settlers and the powerful Palestinian opposition to Yasser Arafat.

Britain's modest aid is seen to fill a gap between needs and resources. A world bank study that costed administration for 1994 at \$168 million, assumed a police force of 15,000 men. But with actual contributions of \$120 million, the force is being scaled down to 10,000.

The two sides disagree about how the police should enter Gaza and Jericho. The PLO wants the first batch of 300 officers to enter with arms and uniforms in a blaze of publicity. Israel wants to arm them after they have arrived — The Guardian.

Taiwanese-Chinese relations deteriorate

Taipei — Relations between Taiwan and China continue to deteriorate due to failure to resolve a conflict that erupted when 24 Taiwanese tourists were killed in China on March 31.

Taiwanese authorities said the 24 tourists either drowned or were burnt to death when they were travelling to Qiandao lake.

Taiwan says the

Chinese authorities refuse to reveal the facts about the accident, adding that relatives of the tourists were denied entry to China.

According to Taiwanese Premier Lien Chan, "such manners have shown the complete neglect of human rights and life by the ruling authorities (in China). The facts about the accident ought to be

made public no matter whether it is a criminal or non-criminal case, he said. If such cases cannot be handled fairly and reasonably, then relations between the two sides of the Taiwan strait will be greatly harmed, he said.

Mr. Chan said, the tourists to the mainland will be in jeopardy unless "law-breakers are punished."

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7:50 News in French
19:15 Le Monde Fantastique des Animaux
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Da Ben's On
21:10 Bony
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "I Am The Cheese"

PRAYER TIMES

06:43 Fajr
06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:36 Asr
16:12 Maghreb
19:03 Isha

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German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 676591
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Warm weather conditions will prevail and winds easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DA

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid 736011
Dr. Khalid Asfour 666873
Dr. Adnan Zaghlool 898140
Dr. Mohammad Shuqair 757253
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649485
Shmeidan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

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DE AND CALENDAR

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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:40 Algers (AA)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
17:45 Dubai (EM)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
01:25 Amsterdam (KL)
02:30 Istanbul (TK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Riyadh (SU)
11:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
12:35 Paris (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Jeddah (RJ)
18:00 Addis Ababa (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
22:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:25 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Beirut (ME)
15:30 Riyadh (SA)
18:45 Dubai (EM)
21:25

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 550/650
Banana 600
Bazana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 250/120
Carrot 240/200
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 180/120
Cucumbers (small) 300/200
Eggplant 260/150
Garlic 900/600
Green beans 380/280
Lemon 140/90
Marrow (large) 180/120
Marrow (small) 300/200
Mushrooms 480/300
Orange 600/400
Onion (dry) 300/200
Onion (green) 280/200
Peas 600/300
Pepper (hot) 600/300
Pepper (sweet) 320/220
Potato 360/240
Tomato 520/350
Spring beans 520/350



JAPAN-JORDAN FRIENDSHIP: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday meets in his office with Ishihashi Kosakabi, president of the Japanese-Jordanian Friendship Society. Discussion covered ways of enabling the society to increase its activities. Head of the Jordanian-Japanese Friendship Society in Jordan Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser (left) was present at the

Three major firms set up fund to help develop southern regions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three major Jordanian companies have come together to set up a common fund to help develop the southern regions of Jordan and address the high rate of unemployment in the area through an innovative scheme under the guidance of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The Jordao Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Cement Factories Company are setting up the fund with an initial capital of JD1 million to be invested in projects that would create employment opportunities as well as development in the governorates of Maan, Tafila and Karak.

The venture, known as the South Development Company, holds the first meeting of its board of directors under the chairmanship of Fayez Khawaneh, director of the Aqaba Region Authority on Saturday to give shape to some of the projects that could be launched immediately.

Other members of the board include the heads of the JPMC, the APC, the cement companies and Hani Al Mulki, director-general of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and one of the directors of the APC.

Suleiman Huwari, director-general of the APC and a member of the new entity, said projects under consideration would aim at upgrading the living standards of the people of the southern governorates through involving them directly and indirectly.

"One of the major problems of the southern regions is a high rate of unemployment," Mr. Huwari told the Jordan Times.

"Hopefully the new project could help alleviate the situation by creating job opportunities for the people of the region."

Mr. Huwari as well as Dr. Mulki of the RSS emphasised that the venture was not commercially oriented.

"I will not use the term investment or profit in the context of this project," said Dr. Mulki. "The whole approach is different."

"It is more like a fund which will help the southern regions to develop through helping set up projects that would contribute to the development process," said Mr. Huwari.

Profit-making will not be the prime objective of the venture, although earnings of the ventures would be recycled into the entity to expand its activities, he said.

Dr. Mulki and Mr. Huwari said the venture was borne out of a suggestion made by Crown Prince Hassan, who observed that the JPMC, the APC and the cement companies were contributing regular financial assistance to local inhabitants.

"His Highness suggested that instead of making the yearly contributions it would be a better idea if the money was used to finance ventures that help the people help themselves while helping the development of the region," said Mr. Huwari.

The start-up capital of JD 1 million will be contributed more or less equally by the three companies, but such contributions would continue every

year, thus raising the capital available to the venture.

Projects under consideration include those which cater to the needs of the companies on a corporate basis as well as the requirements of their employees. In essence this implies the diversion of some of the sources of supplies for the companies to projects run by the people of the region instead of profit-oriented private sector establishments.

Mr. Huwari cited as an example a proposal to set up a small-scale plant to produce uniforms for the three companies' personnel. The project will provide employment opportunities to the people of the area while it will also satisfy the needs of the companies, he said, noting that the companies were buying uniforms from the open market in any event.

Other proposals include maintenance shops for machinery, production of spare parts, motor repairs, production and maintenance of agricultural tools and implements which do not involve high technology. Also under consideration is a vegetable and fruit processing and canning plant.

Dr. Mulki pointed out that projects could also involve facilities to meet the personal consumption needs of the employees of the companies as well as their families. This would mean more than 35,000 people, including the employees themselves and their dependants.

"There are many suggestions and ideas, and we hope we will be able to launch some of them soon," said Mr. Huwari.

Trade experts view Italian team's Iraq visit as sign of possible lifting of U.N. embargo

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The visit to Iraq of a 34-member commercial delegation of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce (AICC) has been hailed by some as a possible sign that the international community is finally moving towards lifting the current U.N. embargo on Iraq.

The AICC team was the largest commercial delegation to visit Iraq since the Gulf war. The group ended a four-day visit to Iraq Tuesday and spent Wednesday in Amman.

Sergio Marini, AICC president and head of the delegation, was quoted in the local media as saying that the AICC had officially called for a lifting of the current embargo measures on Iraq, and Italy's resumption of full and normal relations with Baghdad.

He also called for "the increasing of exports of medical supplies, foodstuffs and essential goods for Iraq, and the release of additional amounts from the Iraqi funds currently frozen (on the part of Italy)."

AICC Secretary General Fouad Abdulhadi told the Jordan Times that this initiative was supported not only by members of the AICC, but by the Italian business community at large.

"Iraq was Italy's fourth trading partner among the Arab countries before the Gulf war, and Italian companies are very keen to resume business there," said Mr. Abdulhadi.

The AICC visit to Iraq, he said, was in fact a result of a meeting between a group of Italian parliamentarians who

were recently in Iraq and representatives of some 40 Italian companies, including Fiat, Pirelli, and Ansaldo.

"I would say that France is pursuing the same policy of resuming business relations with Iraq, as shown by the recent oil drilling contracts agreed upon by Total and ELF-Aquitaine and an Iraqi delegation to France," Mr. Abdulhadi added.

He said a German trade delegation had already arrived in Iraq as the AICC team was leaving, and the Iraqi foreign minister told him that even some U.S. businessmen had "come calling."

Fahed Fanek, a prominent Jordanian economist, told the Jordan Times that the AICC delegation's visit to Iraq was important. "It gives a sign that Europe is expecting the lifting of sanctions. There is no reason for them to continue now except for political pressure, and the United States and Great Britain are the only countries still pushing for continued sanctions," said Dr. Fanek.

During its visit to Amman, the delegation met with Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and officials at the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FICC).

Vice President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Haidar Murad told the AICC members that although bilateral trade between Jordan and Italy had shown a robust annual growth rate of 20% over the past five years, the volume of that trade still falls far short of expectations, as figures show a lopsided current ratio in Italy's favour of over 20-to-1.

Whereas Italian exports to



Members of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce Wednesday meet with their counterparts at the Federation of Jordanian Commerce Chamber of Commerce (Petra photo)

Jordan had risen from a \$67 million total in 1988 to \$202 million in 1993, Jordan's exports to Italy had actually declined over the same period from \$18 million in 1988 to a mere \$9.5 million in 1993, Mr. Murad said.

He urged the Italians to cooperate with the Jordanian private sector "to find ways of increasing the exchange of trade... and identify prospects for boosting Jordanian exports to Italy. It is necessary to have closer access to the Italian market," he added.

Mr. Murad also called on Italy "to adopt a firm stance against the blockade imposed on the Gulf of Aden." Italy, he said, is asked to exercise

all its authority and power "vis-a-vis the allies in order to put an end to this unfair and illegitimate siege."

During her meeting with the delegation, Minister Khalaf told the group that Jordanian exporters were handicapped in their dealings with the Italian market by a lack of knowledge and information about Italian business regulations and practices, and the hard fact that many Jordanian goods lack the necessary standards to penetrate the Italian market.

She said one positive step would be to improve the quality of products manufactured in Jordan through joint business ventures and technology transfers between the

two countries' private sectors.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini told Dr. Khalaf that two smaller Italian business delegations were also currently in Jordan, and "the proliferation of initiatives augurs well for relations between us. But with all these links we risk losing track of what is going on," Mr. Bettini said.

He said that better central coordination and publicity was needed to improve Italian-Jordanian trade relations and to "avoid double efforts and initiatives."

"Also, we need to see more of the same types of initiatives from your side," said the envoy.

Jordanian heart specialists reiterate commitment to progress

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Cardiac and artery disease specialists in Jordan Wednesday reiterated their commitment to medical progress to help care for the increasing number of Jordanians falling victim to heart disease.

"Medical services in Jordan witnessed great progress," said No'man Abu Aishah at the Second Jordan Cardiac Society (JCS) Conference which opened in Amman Wednesday.

Youssef Gousous, president of the JCS and head of the Royal Medical Services addressed the participants stressing the importance of combatting heart disease which, he said, was the first cause of death in the industrial world.

"Stress and unhealthy eating habits are predominant in our lifestyle," said Moayyad Al Nasser, who heads the conference's preparatory committee, explaining the reason behind the increase in coronary disease worldwide.

Dr. Nasser told the Jordan Times that people are becoming more aware of the role of heart surgery as the major step towards death prevention

among heart disease patients, which, he said, explains the increase in heart surgeries.

He added that heart surgery specialists in Jordan were among the best in the world and that Jordan receives hundreds of foreign patients seeking medical attention from Jordanian doctors.

"Patients come to Jordan because of our advanced medical technology and expertise, and not just because services are much less expensive here than in Europe and the U.S.," said Dr. Nasser.

The first open heart surgery conducted in Jordan was done in 1970, and in 1985, heart surgeon Daoud Hanania performed the first heart transplant in the Kingdom.

Dr. Nasser, however, expressed disappointment at the scarcity of heart transplants in Jordan and attributed it to many reasons.

He said that people were not aware of the need for donating their organs and that the operation was too costly. He added that they (heart surgeons) were overloaded with work and need more space and help to enable them to conduct more of these operations, saying that the last heart transplant in Jordan was



An international group of delegates Wednesday attends the opening of "Second Jordan Cardiac Society Conference" at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo)

done in 1991.

The conference hosts delegates from many countries and specialists from the United Kingdom, the U.S., France, Spain, Germany, Iran and several Arab countries who will review working papers over three days.

These papers will discuss surgery of congenital heart disease, electrophysiology, myocardial infarction, anasthesia, coronary artery disease, coronary artery surgery, valv-

lar heart disease, echocardiography, congenital heart disease and interventional cardiology.

Dr. Abu Aishah, who is JCS's vice president, commended Jordan's endurance and dedication to advance and maintain its status as "the Arab role model," in medical progress, adding that Jordanians were able to offer services of all kinds to fellow Arabs, and that they (Jorda-

nian medical specialists) were active in conducting regular monthly meetings to adopt and implement modern medical techniques.

Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali attended the meeting's opening ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The conference aims at providing a mix of the most important advances in cardiovascular medicine and surgery.

Aqaba-Nweibeh ferry services largely unaffected by blockade

AQABA (Petra) — Despite the continuing U.S.-led blockade on the port city of Aqaba and the declining number of ships docking at the harbour, ferry boat services between the port city and Nweibeh on the Egyptian side are continuing unaffected, according to Mohammad Btoush, the director of the port's passenger station.

In the past year a total of 1.25 million passengers travelled between the two ports, and the port authorities are contemplating building more wharfs for passenger ships, said Mr. Btoush.

At present, the passengers are served a wharf which accommodates three ships simultaneously and plans are under way to expand the facility to make room for 12 ships,

said Mr. Btoush, adding that the cost of the project is expected to reach JD12 million.

He said the cost of building the facilities would be compensated or covered by passenger fees, which now stands at \$1 one-way fare per traveller out of the port in addition to the departure fees of JD8 for Jordanians and JD6 for non-Jordanians.

The Aqaba-Nweibeh route has been unaffected by the blockade largely because most of the travellers are Egyptians passing through the port city on their way to or from the Gulf countries, added Mr. Btoush.

He said expanding transport and travel facilities between Jordan and Egypt was expected to increase travel of Arab citizens between the eastern and western areas of the

Arab World and also boost Jordanian-Egyptian trade.

According to Akef Abo Tayeh, deputy director of the Aqaba Ports Corporation, the port earns about JD150 million annually for the state treasury.

He said for every tonne of goods unloaded at Aqaba, JD25 is paid in fees to the government.

He said the port also earns income from fees on ships docking at the harbour and charges on the storage of goods unloaded at the port area.

Despite the harassment to shipping, he said, the port authorities are going ahead with plans to expand facilities to unload cereals and widen storage facilities and yards where the goods are kept before being transited to their destinations.

S. African official arrives for trade, cultural talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior South African official, Derek Aurret, Wednesday started a three-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the region, and plans to hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan on bilateral ties and developments to the region.

According to a South African embassy official, Mr. Aurret also hopes to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss issues of common concern.

Mr. Aurret's visit follows the signing of a memorandum in Johannesburg last January paving the way for cooperation between Jordan and

South Africa in cultural and trade fields, the embassy official told the Jordan Times.

He said that during the visit to South Africa of a Jordanian delegation led by Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi in January, discussions were held with government leaders there including President F.W. de Klerk as well as businessmen and university officials.

The South African embassy has been receiving numerous calls from local businesspersons enquiring about pursuing trade deals with their counterparts in South Africa and the embassy was offering facilities to achieve that goal, said the official.

PASSPORT LOST

I, Musa Sardawi, announce the loss of my Swedish passport No. 63690459 together with a brown wallet on Monday, April 11, 1994. The wallet includes 13,300 Swedish kronar and \$150.

If found please contact Dar Al Karmel at 689684 or Dr. Kamel Sardawi at 795291 or the Swedish embassy at 689177.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Sunrise at Campobello" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Film in English on artist Edgar Degas (part II) (with commentary in Arabic) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh at 5:00 p.m.

DRAMA RECITAL

- ★ Drama recital by Mufleh Al Udwan at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

DRAMA

- ★ Comedy entitled "A Touch Of Spring" at

the Hotel Inter-Continental on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Electronics and electric exhibition at the World Centre for Exhibitions, University Road (10:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 602609).
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamal Khameis and Jehad Abu Salehman at Alla Art Gallery (9:30 -12:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639303).
- ★ Graphics exhibition by artist Burhan Saleh Mohammad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 635291).
- ★ Book exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road.

APRIL 1994

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

THE FIRST QUARTET FESTIVAL IN JORDAN

Sunday 17

Under the Patronage of His Highness Prince Raad Bin Zeid

THE MODERN STRING QUARTET

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

JD 7

In cooperation with Goethe Institut and Friendship Society for the Blind

Tickets are available from:

- Philadelphia Hotel, 607100
- Goethe Institut, 641093
- Sabiche, 661322
- Fancy For Umm, 623696
- The Royal Cultural Centre, 660036
- The National Music Conservatory, 687620
- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 642227

Tuesday & Wednesday, 26 & 27

THE MOZARTEUM QUARTET OF SALZBURG

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN THE GRAND BALLROOM

JD 25 (with dinner)

In cooperation with The Austrian Embassy

Tickets are available from:

- Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan, 641361

Austrian National Tourist Office

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

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Good signs, but they need a helping hand

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT Liamine Zeroual's move this week to replace Prime Minister Redha Malek with moderate Mokdad Sifi in a bid to open new dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) could be an important step towards ending the civil strife that has plagued the North African Arab country since 1992, when national elections which FIS was poised to win were abruptly cancelled.

Unlike Malek, the new prime minister is believed to favour meeting the Islamist forces half way, if possible, as a way out of the internal conflict. If Sifi truly succeeds where his predecessor failed, the Algerian experiment could be duplicated elsewhere such as Egypt where a similar confrontation between fundamentalists and the regime has reached a new peak in recent times.

Still, the success of moderation in Algeria and elsewhere in the Arab and Islamic countries would continue to hinge on good faith dialogue between fundamentalist and moderate forces. Algeria is making a long overdue move and now the ball is in FIS's court to demonstrate that it too is willing to accommodate the views of others in the country. This is after all the essence of pluralistic democracy.

It is doubtful, however, that Sifi has no red lines which FIS cannot be allowed to trespass with impunity. Likewise, the Algerian leadership must show greater sensitivities towards the grievances of the Islamists by demonstrating deeper appreciation of the conditions that have led to the rise of extremism in the first place. Like many developing countries, Algeria suffers from corruption, poverty, a growing gap between the rich and the poor and a limited tradition in democratic rule.

This is where the international community could also lend a helping hand. Yet, judging by the stance of the IMF and its recent deal with Algeria, forthcoming international support may not be enough to solve the problem at hand. That deal called for the introduction of several austerity measures, including the devaluation of the Algerian currency, in return for an accord to reschedule the country's \$26 billion foreign debt and an immediate \$1 billion. There is every fear that pure economic considerations, as the ones often prescribed by the IMF, end up exacerbating domestic peace and stability. In the case of Algeria the IMF deal could very well be counter-productive and lead to further strife in the country.

The European Union has also a vested interest in a stable Maghreb for both political as well as economic reasons. The geographic proximity of the North African tier countries to Europe is too close to be ignored. Additional European initiatives need to be taken to alleviate the economic hardships of these countries.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday bitterly criticised Washington for supplying Israel with sophisticated war planes at a time when the Jewish state continues to obstruct the path of peace and defy the world community. The United States' announcement of its intention to sell Israel 25 F-15I planes can be considered only as a reward to the Jewish state for its negative attitude towards peace and an encouragement for the Israeli government to continue to refuse to end its occupation of Arab land, said the daily. The pretext that Israel needs the war planes to ensure its security is no more acceptable since the Jewish state's arsenal is more than sufficient to ensure Israel's security, said the paper. It is really astonishing and disappointing to hear the United States making this announcement at a time coinciding with the date when Israel was supposed to start implementing its Oslo agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over withdrawing from parts of the occupied territories, said the paper. It said that Washington's stand indeed corroborates the credibility of Syria's continuous accusations that it is the United States which is to be held responsible for the non-achievement of any progress in the peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dostour said Wednesday that the American film industry seems to be dedicating a major time and effort to serving the cause of world Zionism. The American films, which have been screened by Israel's television for nearly a whole month, depict the sufferings of the Jews in Europe and advocates the Zionists cause, said Mohammad Kawash. The writer said that the propaganda campaign for the Jews and the Zionists was being screened at a time when the world was shocked by the massacre of the Muslim worshippers at the Hebron Mosque and was meant as a means to cover up for the Israeli crime. The writer said that the American film industry has played a key role in propagating not only the American hostile campaigns against Communism but also was instrumental in serving the cause of Israel and world Zionism.

The boycott of Israel: the need to tighten the grip

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

AT PRESENT, the Arab side holds in its own hands a crucial negotiating card of which it ought to make the best use especially at a time when Israel, through its unjustified procrastination tactics and its ill-timed "stinginess" and intransigence, is making the peace process extremely difficult, unpleasant, frustrating and even remarkably risky. The card is the Arab boycott of Israel.

Though I am neither an economist nor a political scientist, I have always viewed favourably the Arab boycott of Israel and of businesses and corporations which contribute significantly to Israeli power — both economic and military — a power which has made Israel not only entirely selfish and indifferent to the rights of others in the region but also immensely stubborn, arrogant and hegemonic.

I support the boycott on the following grounds. First, and quite simply, it is a good means to a good end. The imposition of sanctions against a nonconforming, troublesome member of world community is a practice which international law and international norms both condone and legitimise. Sanctions are a highly civilised, agreeably non-violent method of pressure exertion, much less violent and destructive and much more civilised than the resort to military prowess.

The best example in our modern history of how sanctions can be prudently effective is not the case of Agaba, Libya and Iraq (cases where sanctions become a cruel siege) but South Africa. One could certainly see and argue that without the imposition of sanctions on South Africa by the international community, especially Western powers, apartheid would not have weakened and democracy might not have been introduced in that particular country, which mirrored Israel in many ways. The point here is that the Arab countries, following the example of Western countries, are entitled to the boycott against Israel; it is their right to make use of it, and it is their duty to implement it to the best of results.

Secondly, the boycott has been a symbol of Arab solidarity. From the very beginning, Arab relations have gone through

periods of great difficulty and tumult. Today, they are at their worst. In the sixties, seventies and early eighties (when the boycott was perhaps most meaningful and effective) the Arab World, despite the internal differences and the frequent frictions, did enjoy an acceptable level of understanding, an apt sense of common purpose and a noticeable degree of consensus and coordination. The boycott of Israel epitomised very visibly such sense of consensus and coordination. We yearn for those good old days.

It is my firm belief that a consolidated Arab World is a blessing not only through periods of hot or cold wars with Israel, but also during peace negotiations and, even more importantly, in the aftermath of peace, when there will be (we hope) a great deal of healthy competition among all the so-called children of Abraham. At present, the Arab World needs to keep the boycott alive because it is perhaps the only reminder (to the Arab man in the street) of its solidarity and of its existence.

Thirdly, and more significantly, the real strength of the Arab World lies not in its military but in its economic power. Our long history of conflict with Israel has taught us (well, it ought to have taught us) that no matter what we do we can never, as long as the world situation remains as it is, dream of matching Israel's military might. Through unqualified support from the West, Israel has built a very formidable military machine; the Israeli army has always possessed the most sophisticated weaponry and the latest technology. While Israel can get an F-15 or an F-16 in five seconds for free, the Arab World needs five years, at least, to get one for billions of dollars. Israel can also possess chemical, atomic and nuclear weapons with the Western World's knowledge and approval.

I am not saying that the Arab World ought to neglect the question of armament. No, for as long as Israel is strong militarily and as long as it is a threat to our security (before and after peace), we ought to keep ourselves, as strong as possible; it is our inalienable right to defend ourselves against external threats. What I am saying, however, is that our power is in our economic resources and potential. The Arab World is

an attractive market, it provides excellent opportunities for investment and it contains so many riches and so much wealth. The Western and the Eastern worlds need us much more than they need Israel; we have so much to offer. Our job is to know how to make such riches and such wealth work for us. We want to share them with the world, and we want to contribute to the human civilisation conscientiously and positively; but we want the world to be fair to us, to our rights and to our demands.

The way we handle the boycott is a test for our ability to handle our resources and to wrest our rights. If Israel wants to join us on equal footing and if it truly wishes to march with us in the procession of peace and prosperity, rather than to drag us into conflict and disaster, it is warmly welcome. But it has to prove to us, through deeds not words, that it seriously wishes to do so. Until it does, we must keep the boycott alive.

With respect to the question of boycott, I propose the following. A) We bring it (or what remains of it) to the negotiating table, and not deal with it (as some would expect us to) away from it. The boycott, I say again, is one of the best cards at this particularly critical point in history. B) We ought to link the easing or the partial lifting of sanctions with Israel's willingness and ability to effect progress in the peace process which it (and it alone) is slowing and impeding. We want to be reasonable, and I believe we generally have been: Whenever Israel proves through concrete steps that it is contributing to the achievement of peace, we ease and lift some of the sanctions; whenever it procrastinates and plays games, we tighten the grip of sanctions. In my opinion, this is the best strategy to adopt under the circumstances.

Israel has yielded nothing off the negotiating table. As a matter of fact, it has yielded little at the negotiating table. It is still haggling us and our negotiators over matters which the international community and international law have granted us (i.e. the occupied territories); it has shamelessly broken the April 13 deadline (of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho) and it has stalled the bilateral talks. Why, on God's green earth, should we ease or lift the sanctions? Our job at this particular moment is to tighten the boycott, not loosen it.

LETTERS

Channel 2 is not foreign

To the Editor:

I AM generally reluctant to enter into polemics, especially through open letters, but I feel I owe it to the good time I spent in the company of "Mufeed Al Wahesh" to reply to the recent letter of a reader violently criticising the series "End of a Brave Man". It is certainly true that the series had flaws and was sometimes dragging on (with the advantage that missing an episode did not affect your understanding of the framework), it is also true that the subtitling was rather poor. However my family and I enjoyed it very much and so did many of our friends, foreigners and Jordanians.

I do not think that the second channel of Jordan Television (JTV) should be considered as a foreign channel expected to broadcast foreign programmes and movies. I rather see it as a Jordanian channel aiming at making us, foreigners, better appreciate and understand the history, the culture and the traditions of the country and of the region. With all its weaknesses, the series "End of a Brave Man" was a good and enjoyable opportunity to do so. It also reminded us of fundamental human qualities such as the sense of honour and the respect of one's word, things that do not characterise most of the currently produced Western series.

I feel sorry for those viewers for whom missing the western series and having to watch the "End of a Brave Man" instead, resulted in such frustrations that they found their sufferings comparable to a Ramadan sacrifice. But, convinced to be speaking for many other viewers, I would like to encourage JTV to pursue its efforts in broadcasting local productions, hoping that appropriate steps shall be taken to improve the quality of the subtitles.

Janvier de Riedmatten,
Amman.

Difficult bus rides

To the Editor:

Commuters between Jerash and Amman are kept waiting for buses for more than one hour at Jerash bus stop because of the limited number of buses. For example, on April 2, only two buses ran between seven and eight o'clock a.m. It took me four hours to get from Jerash to Amman. Why does only a few buses run in a hour? The reason may be found in the fact that the buses leaving for Amman in very early morning do not return to Jerash until the seats are completely occupied at Amman, though there are not many passengers coming from Amman to Jerash in the morning.

This situation cannot be left as it is. One way of addressing it is probably having passengers who use the buses from Jerash to Amman at rush hours pay double the fare in order to urge the buses to return soon after they arrive in Amman. I am not sure that commuters will argue on this proposal. But proposals to solve this problem must be made. Now that summer is at the door, it becomes more and more difficult to line up under the sun for a long time.

Hishahiko Wada,
P.O. Box 577,
Jerash.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Open the bridge to Arabic papers

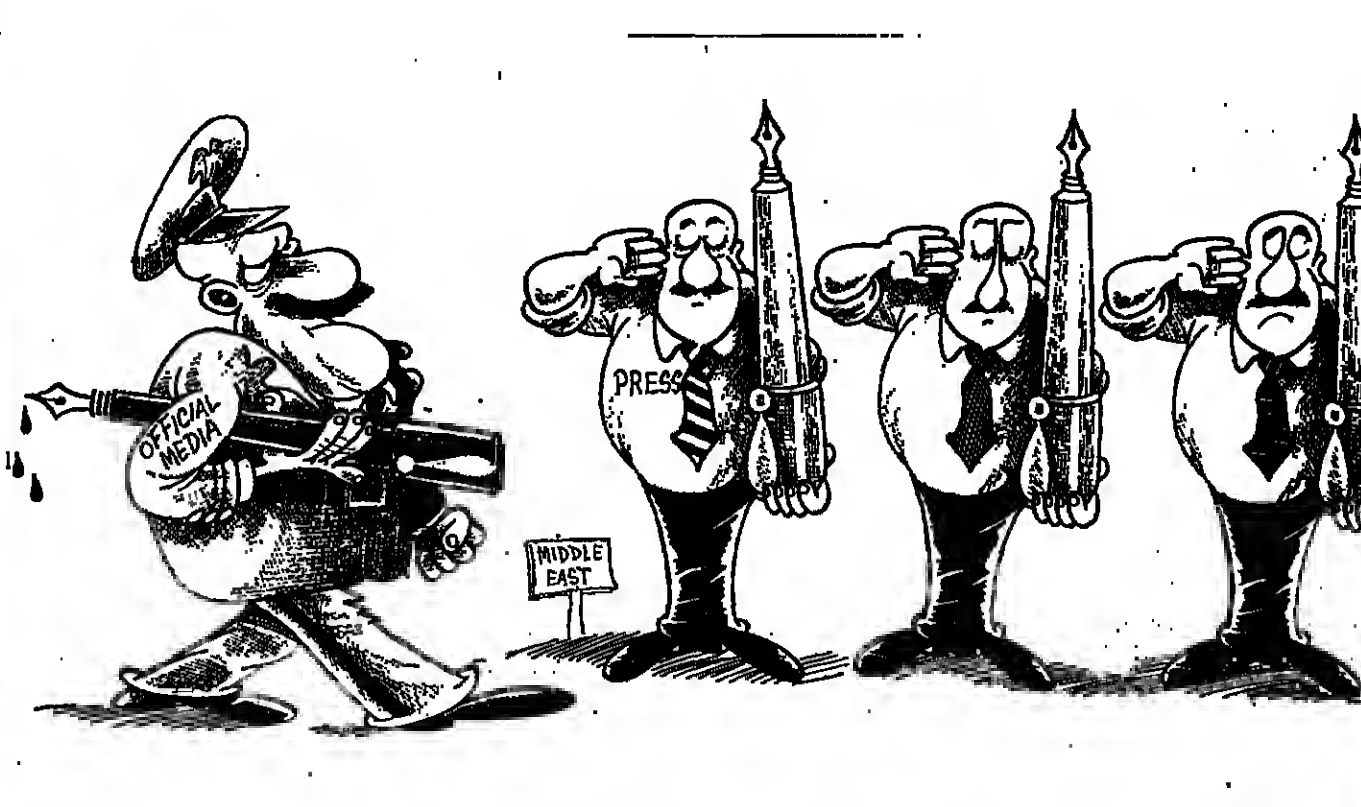
To the Editor:

JORDAN IS one of the very few Arab countries which allow periodicals of all shades of opinion, even those which attack the country very strongly, to be available to the Jordanian readers. However, it would be a good step if the periodicals published in Arab Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories were allowed to enter Jordan in order to strengthen the ties that have existed between the Arab brethren on both sides of the Jordan River homelands.

George Khoury,
Amman.

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M. KAHIL



Rejecting eastern promise

By John Gray

WESTERN POLICY and opinion regarding the societies of East Asia presents a sorry spectacle. The economic achievements of the peoples of East Asia — in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and, more recently, in parts of mainland China, for example — are clear and cannot be denied.

Over long periods of time, extraordinary rates of economic growth have been achieved, which place at least some of the East Asian societies, such as Japan and Singapore, ahead of many Western countries in the health care and education they can offer their citizens. Moreover, this economic success story has often been combined with high levels of communal harmony and social stability, in many cases, the East Asian societies enjoy high levels of employment, and low rates of crime, which Western societies can only envy.

It is this potent combination of dynamic market institutions with the goods of flourishing communities that has so far eluded most Western societies, and which justifies the invocation — in Singapore and Malaysia, and increasingly in China and Japan — of an Asian model of economic and political development.

This Asian model, or family of models, differs from any Western model, including those advanced by Marxists, in drawing on indigenous cultural traditions such as Confucianism, and in its candid repudiation of Western ideals of individualism, human rights and democracy. The Track record of the Asian models, in delivering prosperity and social stability to the peoples of East Asia, is so outstanding that one would expect the achievement to be an object of sympathetic interest in the West.

Any such expectation would be wide of the mark. For the most part, Western thought and policy remains based on the premise that the future for East Asian societies lies in convergence on Western

Western attitudes towards Asia express a cultural imperialism that is hard to distinguish from racism and inhibits scope for cooperation

values and institutions — in other words, on the premise that Western ideals and practices have universal authority. The assumption that modernisation and Westernisation must go together not only distorts our reading of history; it also deforms policy. The fiasco of Warren Christopher's recent visit to China can be understood only in the context of the American presumption that any regime that does not conform to Western, and more particularly American, conceptions of human rights, is tyrannical and illegitimate. The hubris expressed in this American belief is staggering. It rests on a picture of American society that few will recognise and to which many Asians will react with incredulity.

After all, America ranks foremost among Western societies in its record for homicide and other forms of violent crime. Only Britain has the dubious privilege of exceeding it in respect of crimes against property, and even in the near-anarchy of post-Communist Russia, the murder rate in Moscow in 1993 was around a third of that of New York.

Further, the United States exhibits these levels of criminal violence, despite an arrangement in incarceration on a scale undertaken by no other democratic country, with over a million and a quarter Americans being subject to one or other form of imprisonment. If the U.S. has been unable to protect the ordinary liberties of its citizenry even with a draconian policy of mass incarceration, by what right does it judge the Asian countries, among which Japan and Singapore stand out in their success in assuring security from crime for ordinary people?

And, in the case of China, is

the American proposal that it should emulate the disastrous example of the former Soviet Union, and implement glasnost before economic reform is well established? To flit with similar policies in China today would be irresponsible of the highest order.

For Western governments to demand such policies as a condition of trade compounds their folly further, by making Sino-Western cooperation on urgent issues, such as North Korea, harder to achieve. The statement of Prime Minister Hosokawa, that Japan would not support the imposition on China of Western institutions and values, is a wise example Western leaders would do well to follow.

Western attitudes towards the Asian models express a cultural imperialism that is hard to distinguish from racism, and which infects much Western liberal condemnation of them also. It is deeply ironic, however, that Western conservatives should be among, and sometimes in the forefront of, those who attack the Asian models. It used to be an aspiration of Western conservatism, after all, to strive for a balance between the claims of individual choice and the human need for community, and it was once recognised by Western conservatives that the wholly free market is incompatible with social stability.

Some Western conservatives even perceived that cultural difference enriches us even when it is not merely a variation on Western liberal values. Especially in America, where ever greater parochialism of perspective is wedded to ever more strident universalism, such tolerance seems now to

have disappeared from conservative — and, to a large extent, from liberal — thought.

We begin to hear now, in the works of Samuel Huntington and others, talk of "civilisational conflict" — between Confucian and Occidental, or Islamic and Christian cultures — replacing ideological conflict as the chief source of international tension in the post-cold war world. Such pernicious ideas are perhaps inevitable in an ideological nation that has lost the enemy by which it defined itself. They unfortunately give a rationalisation to expressions of cultural racism in the U.S. — particularly with regard to Japanese people and culture, where American racial stereotyping enjoys a freedom from restraint it does not possess in regard to any other people or group.

This is only one way in which fashionable ideas of civilisational conflict — which, if they mean anything, mean that cultural difference is itself a cause of war — constitute a powerful obstacle to enlightened policy in international relations.

In Europe, which does not define itself by reference to a universal mission, it should surely be possible for policy to be guided by the ideal of harmonious coexistence among different cultures. It may even be possible for European leaders to ask what they have to learn from Asian exemplars that have never claimed the universal authority that the Western model, particularly in its American form, claims for itself.

If Europe is to do this, however, it needs to have the confidence that its way of life is worth living without seeing it as obligatory for the entire human species. Can it be that European cultural decline is now so far gone, and American hegemony so complete, that this is now an unrealistic hope?

The writer is a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. The article is reprinted from the Guardian.

A shock therapy for Jordan's academicians

By Mohammad Mashariqa

The performance of Jordanian academics at the Third Arab Strategic Conference held recently in Amman gives rise to many questions about the role that Jordanian universities play in preparing politicians capable of generating ideas for the decision-makers and the Jordanian economy as well as the future of the coming generations.

It would not be shameful to confess that the academicians' performance at the three-day conference, which was attended by an elite group of Egyptian politicians and thinkers working for Al Ahram Strategic Studies Centre, was rather poor.

The conference exposed our academics as amateurs, resembling those participants in a meeting dedicated to discussing ideologies and organised by those who advocate what can be described as "arbitrary ideology" of the Communist or the bismarkian type.

Levelling accusations at Egyptian thinkers and their ideas, our academicians said that the Egyptian participants' attitude was one that promoted American or Israeli policies in the region.

The charges surfaced particularly in the debates over the concept of a united Arab nation, the Arab countries position vis-à-vis Iraq and Kuwait and the prospect of a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. And yet an observer at the conference could easily perceive the Egyptian participants' scientific approach in dealing with these topics not only in the presentation but also in the conclusions of the discussions and about strategic options for the Arabs in the light of the facts on the ground.

In the light of the discussions one can say that the conference has proved beyond a trace of doubt the impotence of our academic institutions to produce an elite of political thinkers for the Kingdom.

The impotence manifested itself particularly in the rather "rhetorical-emotional" approach used by the Jordanian academicians in contrast with arguments presented by their Egyptian colleagues whose ideas rested on unbiased

research and were characterised by objectivity.

Despite their bragging that they have based their ideas on scientific knowledge, our academics have proved through their debates that they have jumped to conclusions before conducting any study or even listening to remarks or comments in matters that required scrutiny and deep examination, especially as political and social science subjects tolerate no absolutely established laws.

One phenomenon worth examining here is that some Jordanian academicians on the podium seemed to have had pre-conceived self-image of a future political leader or minister.

By assuming such false pretences they seemed to have hoped to attract the attention of the King or the prime minister to their assumingly "great politico-ideological feats."

Hence their performance reflected their selfishly aspired objectives far in excess of the conference's themes and its objectives.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

An obsession of assuming senior state or public positions is a common characteristic of Third World countries' academicians, but it seems it has a special importance for those of Jordan. In this country, academicians came into existence as an embodiment of the country's social traditions or interests. Once they have been installed in their positions, they tend to create and bring in others of the same calibre who by no means work towards the fulfilment of the country's real needs as they assume their posts not on the strength of their competence or knowledge but rather on social traditions and considerations.

The state followed the same pattern in creating and recruiting its elite who were trained in the West and also by the Communist Party whose cadres were selected on the strength of traditional rather than ideological considera-

tions. Upon returning to the country, these groups were semi-educated but dreaming of assuming political leadership or senior government positions.

One example of this situation can be seen in the recent appointment of 12 university professors of political science and law as members of a 20-member political bureau of one of the Jordanian political parties which is seeking to form a government or take part in one.

This development will no doubt have its own negative result on the level of scientific or academic research in Jordan's state universities, in addition to the fact that the departure of academicians from universities deprives them of any involvement in serious scientific research.

Needless to say that it is of the utmost importance for the country to give due care to scientific research in academic fields in order to contribute towards the development of society which continually faces regional and international political changes.

The first step to address the situation lies in identifying the ills of the academic system, to be followed by the creation of an opportune and healthy climate that would pave the way for the emergence of truly politically-minded thinkers. We have to admit that the creation of such a healthy environment starts at school, then at the cultural institutions and then at the independent scientific research centres.

This process should be backed by a suitable environment, coupled with the publication of scientific research and supported at the official level by appropriate legislations. In order that an objective scientific subject can be successful, it should have an environment of freedom and intellectual pluralism.

The University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, which hosted the conference had wanted it to specialise as an academic parley where academicians exchange ideas and discuss realities facing the state and the society.

Perhaps the function could have paved the way for laying the basis for a new and more solid tradition and would serve as a shock therapy treatment for the Jordanian academicians.

BOOK REVIEW

'An element of guile'

Henry Kissinger on the uses of power

Diplomacy

By Henry Kissinger

Simon and Schuster: 912 pages

It must drive Henry Kissinger crazy to be sitting on the sidelines while the post-cold-war world realigns itself. An opportunity like this hasn't come along since the Congress of Vienna in 1814, when Austrian Prince Klemens von Metternich and his colleagues established a finely balanced European order that averted all-out war for a century. Now, at a comparable turning point in history, there is no later-day Metternich to create a new international system. As Richard Nixon's chief foreign-policy aide, Kissinger tried to build a "structure of peace" by extricating the United States from Vietnam, opening relations with China and pursuing détente with the Soviet Union. But the effort bogged down in the Watergate scandal, and it wasn't until the sudden collapse of communism, nearly 15 years after Kissinger left office, that anyone could begin to design a "new world order." Kissinger, long an admirer of Metternich, never got a chance to play his role.

Writing about it is Kissinger's next-best option. His new book, *Diplomacy*, is less a history of the statesman's craft than a celebration of great men who practiced it single-mindedly, from Cardinal Richelieu to President Reagan. Like Machiavelli before him, Kissinger has a keen appreciation for the hardheaded use of power, to the point of admiring some traits in leaders who were otherwise detestable. Richelieu, who made France pre-eminent in the early 17th century, never allowed morality, or even the dictates of his church, to get in the way of *raison d'état* — coldblooded national interest. Generations of tyrants learned from his example. "Stalin was indeed a monster," Kissinger writes, "but in the conduct of international relations, he was the supreme realist — patient, shrewd, and implacable, the Richelieu of his period."

Kissinger takes an odd hit-or-miss approach to the history of diplomacy, saturating some subjects and skimming over others. He almost ignores the impact of political upheavals in the late 18th century: the French Revolution is only alluded to while the American Revolution isn't discussed at all. He mentions the Cuban missile crisis only in passing, while devoting reams of analysis to the Berlin crises of 1958-63. He defends, once again, his (and Nixon's) accomplishments in office, but offers only oblique rebuttals to critics of his Indochina policy, such as William Shawcross and Seymour Hersh. Kissinger does not directly answer their charges of duplicity, for example, but he observes, in another context, that there "is inevitably in every great leader an element of guile."

The former secretary of state describes U.S. foreign policy as a constant "push and pull" between ideals and national interests — with moralism prevailing more often than he would have liked. The tone for most of this century was set, he writes, by Woodrow Wilson, who wanted America to be "a beneficent global policeman." Eventually the policeman landed in an Asian quagmire. Nixon tried to put idealism aside and pursued national interests through balance-of-power tactics, playing China against the Soviet Union. But Kissinger writes that it was left to Ronald Reagan, a shrewd man with a few good ideas and "an extraordinary intuitive rapport" with the American psyche, to unite might with right and finish off the Soviet Union.

As for the future, Kissinger argues that the new world order will look a lot like the order propounded by Metternich. "In the next century," he writes, "American leaders will have to articulate for their public a concept of the national interest and explain how that interest is served — in Europe and in Asia — by the maintenance of the balance of power." But Kissinger himself points out that balance-of-power politics succeeded in 19th-century Europe because "the Continental countries were knit together by a sense of shared values. There was not only a physical equilibrium, but a moral one." It will not be easy to make the turbulent and diverse world of the 21st century run like a Victorian gentlemen's club — *Newsweek*.

Russell Watson

While Natal burns, the surfers hit the beach

By Judith Matloff
Reuters

DURBAN, South Africa — While Shantytowns burn and rival black political factions massacre each other in South Africa's Zulu heartland, the surfers hit the waves.

The declaration of a state of emergency by President F.W. de Klerk has made little impact on the lives of Durban's young trendies, whose thoughts have not strayed from the latest parties and clubs.

While troops in armoured vehicles rumbled into the embattled province to quell unrest, Durban's beaches were packed with the usual crowd of surfers and sun worshippers.

Fun and sunbath on the gleaming beaches, where the pursuit of cold beer is a well-developed art and the biggest danger is a sunburn.

Seaside bars are packed with well-toned young whites, eyeing potential mates and comparing tans after a vigorous battle with the waves.

The sound of rock and roll pulsates into the balmy nights in the Indian Ocean port and commercial centre of Natal, where elegant restaurants and hotels do brisk business along the palm-lined esplanade, and private swimming pools abound.

"Look, it's not that I'm not interested in politics," said Patrick, a pony-tailed surfer assessing the waves from the veranda of Joe Kool's, a popular watering spot for the sand-worshipping trendies. "But life goes on."

The pursuit of pleasure is not restricted to the young. In the colonial-style restaurants and clubs, the elite gather over gins and tonic and shellfish as their British

forefathers did.

But while they discuss cricket scores, monitors of the violence tally death tolls in the killing fields of impoverished black areas just 20 minutes away.

In the squalid townships and shantytowns that have become virtual civil war zones, terrified residents wonder not what club to go to but whether they will survive the night.

Fighting between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party, rivals for the support of South Africa's nine million Zulus, has accounted for many of the 10,000 political killings over the past decade in Natal and the adjoining KwaZulu homeland.

The violence has intensified and spread with the approach of the country's first all-race elections on April 26-28 — which Inkatha is boycotting and the ANC is widely expected to win.

In Newlands East, on the edge of a neat suburb on Durban's city limits, hundreds of refugees huddled over the meagre possessions they managed to bundle together before fleeing burning shacks and gunshots.

Even without the fighting, it is a life of struggle — high illiteracy, open sewers, scant jobs, heaps of rubbish.

"It is another world," said one white violence monitor, downing his third gin and tonic in an hour to try to forget the latest report of murdered women



Residents and tourists alike enjoy fine sunshine and the warm Indian Ocean on a Durban beach (AFP photo)

and children.

Sometimes, however, the region's turbulent politics encroaches on the lives of even the most apolitical.

A pro-election march on March 25 by the ANC, which paralysed Durban and cost millions of rand (dollars) in lost business, was very much on the mind of a young man who like most people in the city centre closed his office early for the day.

Authorities fearing a confrontation between the marchers and Inkatha supporters uncoiled razor wire outside his office building. Policemen wielding automatic weapons stood guard to ensure there was no trou-

ble. "It's great. I can go home early and watch the cricket," the young man remarked to a colleague in the lift.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

God made the grass, the air and the rain; and the grass, the air and the rain made the Irish; and the Irish turned the grass, the air and the rain back into God — Sean O'Faolain, Irish author.

To like and dislike the same things, that is indeed true friendship — Sallust, Roman scholar (83 B.C.-34 B.C.).

Nearly all our disasters come from a few fools having the "courage of their convictions" — Coventry Patmore, English poet (1823-1896).

We are creatures of the moment; we live from one little space to another; and only one interest at a time fills these — William Dean Howells, American author and editor (1837-1920).

Despite deaths, climbers flock to scale Mt. Washington

By Christine Gardner
Reuters

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Derek Tinkham and Jeremy Haas went looking for the gods and paid a heavy price.

Mr. Tinkham, 20, froze to death in his sleeping bag during a harrowing climb to the summit of Mount Washington in January. Mr. Haas, hiking companion and fellow university student, lost two joints of the ring finger of his right hand to frostbite.

They were only two of dozens of casualties in recent years as climbers flock to scale the highest peak in the northeast, part of the Presidential Range of New

Hampshire's White Mountains. At 6,228 feet (2000 metres) Mount Washington is legendary for some of the most tempestuous weather on Earth, surpassing even the Himalayas for extremes of cold and wind.

But for intrepid climbers it remains an alluring, if perilous, proving ground.

"It's not a toy just because it's three hours from Boston," says Mr. Haas, washing dishes for the first time in two months in his campus apartment. His fingers, covered with blisters a few weeks ago, are still swollen and purplish-red. Most have no nails.

Mr. Haas considers himself lucky. Six weeks after

the death of his friend Mr. Tinkham, two New Jersey men also perished in the Presidential Range.

Their deaths, bringing the total on Mount Washington and its neighbouring peaks to 114 since 1849, have renewed a debate about whether climbing there should be restricted.

There currently are no rules to bar climbers in case of severe weather. Winter climbers sign in at a visitors' centre at the start of a climb. But "they go at their own risk," said Brad Ray, a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, which shares jurisdiction over the mountain with New Hampshire officials.

The mountain's fierce weather tests the mettle of more than 100,000 adventurers a year — about 30,000 in winter.

Hurricane force winds of 75 miles (120 km) per hour are common any time of the year and 100-mile-per-hour (160 kph) gusts are weekly occurrences in winter, said Guy Gosselin, director of the Mount Washington Observatory, which monitors weather conditions at the summit.

The most ferocious winds on Earth — 231 miles (370 km) per hour — were recorded on the summit on April 12, 1934. The record low temperature, on the summit of minus 47 degrees

was recorded in January of the same year.

The night of Mr. Tinkham's death, temperatures plummeted to minus 42 degrees and winds were measured at up to 100 miles (160 km) per hour. Mr. Haas said the wind "literally sent the two of us spinning."

Three rescuers working to save the New Jersey victims also were whisked off the ground last month by winds of 125 miles (200 km) per hour. One rescuer's eyelids froze shut.

Daily weather and avalanche conditions are posted and available by phone from the observatory. But no matter how severe the conditions, climbers are

free to proceed.

"I might remind you, the (New Hampshire) state motto is 'live free or die,'" Mr. Gosselin said. He and other representatives of rescue and mountaineering groups oppose any restrictions on climbers.

"Should there be restrictions? Absolutely not," said Bill Aughton, search and rescue coordinator for the Appalachian Mountain Club at Mount Washington. "There would be a revolt in the north country. It would be appalling."

Opponents of restrictions say the fatalities are few compared to the thousands who succeed in the trek. Mountaineering and outdoors organisations say

most people who take on the dangerous climb are equipped to do so.

"It's just a few people who go up there and ignore the weather and ignore the risks," Mr. Wilcox said.

In the case of Mr. Tinkham and Mr. Haas, Mr. Aughton said, "the weather was forecast a week before. It was worse than Everest. But there were lots of opportunities to turn back... You had a couple of young men who thought they were invincible."

Other experts say restrictive rules could deprive able climbers from tackling the mountains.

"This is an excellent training ground... Sadly,

there are some people who are not a match for the severe conditions. But many are," said Peter Crane, observatory programme director.

"It would be a shame to see Mount Washington restricted. It's the last thing I'd want," Mr. Haas said, despite his own harrowing experience.

Legend has it that the gods live in the mountains, and for Mr. Haas climbing is a spiritual experience. "What I see up in the mountains... is eternity. A sense of history," he says. "They are beings, the mountains. They're immense creations that you've got to respect."

Until proven innocent

By Jean-Claude Elias

At the risk of being un-democratic, I dare say that for me all computer software is guilty until proven innocent. This includes programmes designed and distributed by major software companies.

Packages (the commoo oame for a ready-made programme) are usually introduced to the market with promotion campaigns impressive enough to make you believe they are more than perfect, should be considered as sacred objects and represent the ultimate product in the genre. How many such packages have been launched this way only to be rejected a few months later by the majority of the users?

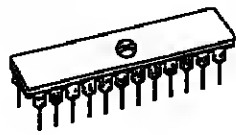
The list of such "failures" will fill all of the eight columns of this page. Since 1983, numerous programmes have been announced as the "future standard" in computing but over fulfilled their designers claim to fame. Basic ethics prevent us from explicitly naming here any of these famous cases.

Spreadsheets, word processors, integrated software, Arabisation systems and even operating systems on which major companies spent millions of dollars in research and development never made it to the top in the best case or simply disappeared after a few months of existence, in the worst.

Most events are difficult to predict. The weather forecast is a perfect example of inaccuracy. Wars are even a better example — they always start when we do not expect them, in spite of all the so-called political analysis. Commercial products are normally preceded by a good market study aimed at maximising their chances of success. A computer programme, though subject to such a study, remains a most hazardous venture for its designers.

Not to mention software sometimes officially released to the world by its originators and that still includes "bugs", or programming errors. There are several famous such cases in the short history of modern computing.

chip talk



At least three operating systems for personal computers (PC) were designed in view of stealing the crown of the famous MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System). None succeeded. Technically speaking, some were superior to MS-DOS in terms of features and power. The users however decided against them, probably preferring a product they got used to and that they find more friendly though less powerful.

Among the tens of excellent word processing, spreadsheets and data base programmes, only a few (less than ten, certainly) have become standards, by which all others are measured. We know that the users take into consideration a certain number of parameters when evaluating software: Power, user-friendliness, number of features, presentation, speed of execution, quality of the displays, price, disk space occupancy, etc... Alas, even a programme that positively covers all these points is not sure to become a winner. The last and most elusive parameter cannot be controlled — the users' whim.

After having seen, since the early eighties, numerous packages take a sharp dip just after their launch, I made it a rule over to judge positively a piece of software, however brilliant it is at first sight, before it has been around for a couple of years; and never to accept a package as a "standard" before it really proved to be one, which usually takes three to five years.

The greatest love story ever told

By E. Yaghi

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread —

Alexander Pope

Everyone said that they were meant for each other. She, Soba, not only had a teaching degree, but also a job offer to work in a rich oil country. He, Mazen, it was said, had great potential but no job and was dashing and handsome. On their wedding day, friends and relatives flocked to the ceremony and as the charming couple sat encircled by the group of "oohing" and "aahing" admiring females, voices whispered amongst the duo of song and dance, "isn't she lovely!" or "isn't he handsome!" The lovely bride and handsome bridegroom were whisked away out on a white horse, but a silver jet first to an oil rich capital and then by donkey cart to an isolated village where Soba began to instruct barefoot children fed on dates while her devoted husband spent most of the day searching for himself and pondering about his future whenever he wasn't looking in the mirror admiring his reflection.

She could never admit that her husband was a good for nothing and that without her he was just a bum, so she toiled and slaved and bore him many children and at the same time scrimped and saved for that rainy day or the dream house that her money would have to build. Sometimes, good old Mazen would drive a taxi for extra wages, but only when he felt he needed some extra pocket money. Moreover, he tended to spend his time at home or at a local coffee house until his overworked wife trudged home to cook dinner for him and his growing brood of children. Nevertheless, Soba found happiness in her work, her children and seldom complained about her lazy husband because he treated her well enough, not that she ever had the time to just ask herself "why?" or stopped to think that he needed her of course for she was the sole wage earner in the family.

Twenty-five years passed away from their lives and at last one day, Soba confronted her husband with, "Mazen, I'm tired. Let's go home and build our house. I have a pension that will help support us and we can also rent a floor or two for added income."

He sat sprawled out on a mattress on the floor propped up on two silk pillows. He looked at her. There were wrinkles cutting creases in her face and shocks of white and gray hair sprouting up on her head. She had gained that middle aged spread and she looked so much older. He, on the other hand, he decided, had fared much better. Many girls still considered him attractive and young. He had always kept in shape by jogging and working out whenever he wasn't sleeping or passing time at the coffee house. So he answered her: "Yes, I'm tired of being away from home too. I think we can manage without your handsome income. Though the kids are getting bigger, I don't think they'll have much trouble adjusting to life in Jordan."

Soba and her husband built a three storey house and with material satisfaction settled down to spend their autumn years in peace and comfort. An ample supplement was procured from renting the two lower floors and Soba's pension provided an additional bonus. A few months after moving into their new home, Soba decided she must attend to a nagging physical ailment that she

neglected while she taught outside the country. After many tests were performed and consultations of several doctors gained, one day, Soba returned home at the beginning of spring. The fields boasted long green wild grass interwoven with bright yellow flowers and their tasted sweet. The sun shone out with contempt but with gentleness promising warmer days. Trees were coming alive with growing buds and violets abounded on cement walls.

Everything screamed new life and spring but to Soba who almost shouted as she walked towards her home, "why, why is the sun still shining when all my world is dark and dismal?"

She picked some wild yellow flowers and then crushed them in her hand, threw them on the ground and stomped on them. She wanted to fight that invisible enemy that was robbing her of her life just when she deserved to enjoy it most. But people would take her for a mad woman so she stumbled home. When she opened her front door on the third floor, her house still smelled like paint and everything looked as new as it was. Her eyes swept over the living room, over the shining furniture, the plush curtains, the thick carpet, the luxury television set, the largest she could find and on the VCR so her children could watch movies in case something interesting appeared on TV. One of her daughters looked surprised and said: "Mom, is everything all right? What's the matter? Your face is so red!"

A few months later, the disease that Soba had ignored gained strength and each day brought a weaker and weaker patient until at last death stalked in every corner of her room, waiting for that victorious moment. On the night of her death, where was that devoted husband of hers? Was he mourning the woman who had faithfully served him and built a house she would never live to enjoy? Was he comforting his children and preparing them for the impending loss of their mother? Indeed not! He was out with some relatives asking for the hand of a young bride for himself! He had an all out wedding out too long after his wife's funeral but not too many women sighed "oohs" and "aahs" or said, "don't they make a handsome couple?" Whatever happened to his children after his marriage? Did they live happily ever after with the new stepmother? Not really, for she made sure Mazen got them out of the house so she could enjoy the modern conveniences poor Soba had struggled for all her adult life. The children were placed in a small dark dungeon-like room in the basement where they never see the sun or feel the embrace of a caring woman or bask in her love or smiles.

But Mazen is certainly happy. After all, he's married again to a girl young enough to be his daughter and his makes him feel young too. He's done away with those wrinkles and gray hair of Soba and replaced them with eternal youth. Will he let his bride work? Why not? He'll be sure to keep physically fit and habit the local coffee house where he'll spend many joyful hours playing cards. Does he worry about his children and regret keeping them in the basement? His mind doesn't really have room for such considerations, for he's too busy bragging about his marriage and his newborn son from his second wife proving that he's not old at all. Does he have another perfect marriage? You bet he does!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- The first turtles on earth lived more than 185 million years ago.
- The whale's spout can shoot 20 feet in the air and be seen from a mile away.
- During World War II, a special army unit began training bats to carry bombs into cracks and crevices of enemy buildings. The war ended before the project was ever put into operation.
- A mole can dig underground as fast as it can walk above ground.
- A typical heavy London fog contains 820,000 dust particles to the cubic inch.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Happy dreams. **Ahlam sa'eeda.**
- Poor fellow! **Shakhs miskeen.**
- Beautiful moon. **Kamar Jameel.**
- Red rose. **Warda hamra.**
- Good news. **Akhar tayeiba.**
- New car. **Sayyara jadida.**
- Awkward situation. **Mawkiif mohrij.**
- Delicious food. **Ta'am laziz.**
- Overwhelming joy. **Farah ghamir.**
- Fixed price. **Thaman mohaddad.**
- Amusing story. **Kissa musaliya.**
- A stale joke. **Nokta baykha.**
- Exciting play. **Masrahiya mutheera.**
- Gifted girl. **Fatat mawhooba.**
- Alarming clock. **Sa'a munabbih.**
- Strong love. **Hobb shadeed.**
- Warm kiss. **Kobla da'fe'a.**
- Love street. **Share' el gharam.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COOKING IS FUN

MINESTRONE

Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried beans or peas (soaked overnight)
 - 8 medium carrots.
 - 4 potatoes
 - 8 celery stalks
 - 1/4 white cabbage
 - 2 onions
 - 1 garlic clove
 - 1 small bunch parsley
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 4 quarts water
 - salt and pepper to taste.
- Wash vegetables and cut up very fine. Stem parsley and mince together with the garlic. Put all the ingredients into the kettle. Add boiling water and seasonings and simmer from 2 to 4 hours.
- Yield: 6-8 servings.

LAUGHTER

- "Darling," Jean greeted her husband Jack, "I've something to confess to you."
- "Nothing serious I hope," answered Jack.
- "Since you're so cool, calm, and collected, I'll tell you before dinner."
- "Out with it," said Jack getting a bit uneasy.
- "Promise me you won't get angry."
- "I promise."
- "You won't lose your temper?"
- "No!"
- "I had a little mishap with the new car."

"Is that all?"

"I flooded the engine and it won't start."

"That's not so terrible. I'll call the auto club. By the way, where did you flood the engine?"

"At the bottom of Falcon Lake."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ **TEACHER:** What are the most important institutions left by Ramses of Egypt?

PUPIL: Ramses Cinema, sir.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ **OFFICER:** I think you overran the buffalo on the road, didn't you?

DRIVER: Oh, my God! Do you suppose I've done that in the fold?

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Choose the correct answer

1. When your eyes dances, you are
— sad — excited — content — angry — unhappy
2. If you hit someone with your fist, you
— slap him — smack him — tap him — rap him
— punch him
3. Your instep is part of your
— hand — leg — arm — foot — body
4. Which sound do you not make with your feet
— scraping — clanking — shuffling — tramping
— patterning
5. Instead of saying, **THE DOG ATTACKED HIM**, you could say
— The dog went away with him.
— The dog went back with him.
— The dog went in for him.
— The dog went for him.
— The dog went to him.
6. Sole, trout, brill, bream are all
— flowers — parts of the body — fish — colours
— insects

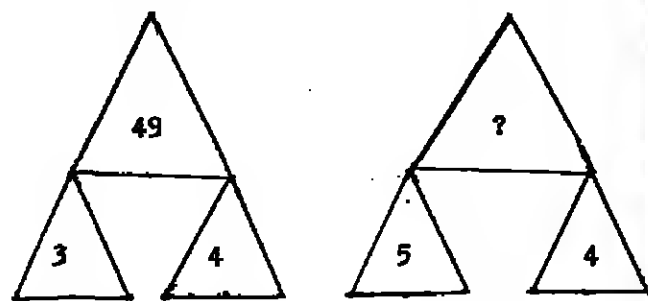
1. Slum — Plum 2. Ample — Apple 3. Peat — Pear
4. Grange — Orange 5. Current — Currant 6. Perch — Peach 7. Samson — Damson 8. Grade — Grape.

PUZZLES

(A) FRUITFUL CHANGES

Change one letter only in each of the following defined below to make the name of a fruit in each case:

1. Mean neighbourhood.
2. Sufficient.
3. Fuel.
4. Farmhouse.
5. Stream.
6. Fish.
7. Strong man.
8. Degree.



(B) FIND THE MISSING NUMBER

هكذا منه للأصل

About the urban domain

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaen

The retrained professional, whether architect, planner or urban designer, is the requisite generalist capable of solving interdisciplinary urban problems that affect all three disciplines at once. We can refer to this generalist using the word "habitect" (from the word habitat). The intention here is not to create a new profession, but simply to make the concept of the reeducated professional easier to communicate.

One important feature of this "habitect" is the ability to work with, and within, the community that he/she serves. Such a process would normally take place as part of an overall mechanism whereby the process through which decisions regarding our urban environment are taken is decentralised. The contention here is that users, city and road users, should become actively involved in the decision making processes in our cities. Here in Jordan, we have now developed a sufficient "catalogue" of building types, road networks and city layouts to help steer us in the future such that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

However, the part of the establishment responsible for this catalogue, the local municipalities, lack of tools to monitor all various facets of this catalogue; like the relationships between buildings and roads, between one road and another, between roads and vehicles and vehicles and people. This is where the critical input of

people, the users, becomes not only important but necessary.

The time is now right for us to pause and not attempt to make the existing road networks any bigger. Our attention should instead focus on making what we have better. We do that through a process of "fine tuning". We can start by preparing a list of criteria against which the "catalogue" can be assessed. Who should prepare this list is one other important aspect of that process. One possible scenario features a step by step process of classifying options: an information service network into which road-users and city-users can plug in with their inputs on what they perceive to be viable solutions to problematic locations on our roads and efficiencies within our cities. This information network could take the form of semi-autonomous local organisations which process and convey the users' input to the municipality concerned. Community based organisations can be set up to perform such a task.

Our roads have to be adapted to fit our particular needs. This should be our end goal. The means by which we meet those goals have to be put forward and debated in public before a consensus can be attained. Educating both the public and the officials in municipalities and urging them to be respectful of, and responsive to each other's points of view remains an integral part of the process as we edge closer to the reality of the responsive environment.

The scorpion and the spider: A fairy tale

By Cecil Hourani

At the beginning of time, a long, long while ago, all creatures of God lived in peace and harmony with one another. The bees made honey but did not sting; the serpents' tongues kissed but did not poison; the cats played with the mice but did not eat them; the lions roared but only with delight; and the scorpions and the spiders danced together on the sand. Everything was beautiful in the garden, and the first man — or perhaps it was the first woman — called it Paradise.

Then one day a Djinn came into the garden and cast a magic spell over all who lived in it. Suddenly the bees started to sting everyone who tried to eat their honey; the snakes' kiss turned into a poisoned bite; the cats chased the mice and ate them; the lions roared and killed their prey; the scorpions stung the spiders, and the spiders caught them to their webs and ate them bit by bit, and man and woman beat each other up.

After thousands of years had passed, three holy men with long beards entered the garden through a hidden gate, and said with one voice "the magic spell will be broken by whoever speaks one word and believes in it" — and the word was PEACE.

The scorpions and the spiders heard the message but were afraid to speak the word. Then one day a wise owl

came down from a tall tree and told them "just once and speak the word and see what happens. The scorpions said it was a trick and called the owl a traitor; and the spiders went on spinning their webs."

After many more years the scorpions discovered that their sting was losing its power, and the spider webs were no longer catching the insects and flies on which they fed. So the king of the scorpions said to the king of the spiders "let's try what the old owl told us to do." And the king of the spiders replied "alright, let's try it once, but if nothing happens we will still be enemies."

All the insects and the flies and the animals in the garden gathered together to see what would happen when the scorpions and the spiders spoke the magic word. The king of the beetles stood between them, and made the king of the scorpions and the king of the spiders touch each other and say "PEACE".

As soon as that happened everything changed. The scorpions and the spiders started to kiss one another, and all the creatures in the garden began to dance with joy. The king of the scorpions decided to marry the queen of the spiders. After nine months twin children were born to them: one was an ugly boy, the other a beautiful girl, whom they called Harb and Salaa, and they all lived unhappily together ever afterwards.

Australian film industry plays David to Hollywood's Goliath

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Try to imagine visiting Paris and being unable to find a French film showing in a local theatre, or an Italian film in Rome, or an American film in New York or Los Angeles. Unthinkable. But weeks, even months have gone by when it's been impossible to find a theatre showing an Australian movie in Sydney, the nation's biggest city. It is a sign of the David-and-Goliath struggle that local filmmakers wage against Hollywood even in their homeland.

A film buff could see the latest U.S. releases (Schindler's List, Flesh And Bone) and films from Britain, Spain, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France, Mexico, Italy, even Chile and Finland.

But you have to look hard to find an Australian film — quite a surprise in the country that produced the world's first full-length feature in 1906, the Story Of The Kelly Gang, and regularly releases films that win critical acclaim.

Yet the local film industry battles on, releasing 24 features last year against more than 200 churned out by the United States. Few of them played more than a couple of weeks, and few were on more than one or

two screens in any Australian city. The multiscreen theatres in the suburban malls and downtown are almost exclusively devoted to Hollywood productions.

Now and then a film breaks through to international success, such as last year's Strictly Ballroom, and the Mad Max and Crocodile Dundee films of the 1980s.

Crocodile Dundee, for example, grossed \$174 million at the box office in the United States alone in 1986; the 1988 sequel pulled in \$109 million in America, the only Australian film to break the golden \$100 million-plus mark.

Australians aren't used to big hits. Strictly Ballroom, the last international success story, grossed \$6.5 million in the United States, and \$14 million in Australia. That's about how much a popular American film would gross over a three-day holiday weekend.

A more typical Australian success story was Proof, a 1990 film with a budget of just \$720,000 that grossed \$1.3 million in Australia and \$900,000 internationally.

"It did good business for a film of that size. ... It's not Jurassic Park," conceded Jock Given, policy advisor for the Australian Film

Commission, which provides funds for small-budget and experimental films, and films by new directors.

To be a smash hit, a movie has to play on 1,000 to 2,000 screens worldwide. When Strictly Ballroom was released, only 40 prints were sent to theatres; when it became obvious that the film was more successful than anticipated, another 160 prints were made.

Miramax, the distributor of The Piano, a film set in New Zealand and jointly funded by France, New Zealand and Australia, is rushing 200 new prints to American theatres to capitalise on the movie's eight Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, director (New Zealander Jane Campion), actress (Holly Hunter), and supporting actress for 11-year-old Anna Paquin of New Zealand.

The Piano has earned more than \$20 million.

But Australian and New Zealand filmmakers concede they are swimming against the tide, which flows from Hollywood.

"The grim fact is that out of every 100 bucks spent at the box office in Australia, \$94 or \$95 go back to Los Angeles," said Phillip Adams, a critic and columnist who helped revive the moribund film industry in the early 1970s by urging the government to actively

support Australian films.

Indeed, Hollywood has made a bundle out of Australia. Since 1958, 348 films have earned more than \$1 million in Australia. Twenty-three were Australian, earning a total of \$65.4 million; but 325 American films earned \$557.9 million, according to figures compiled by the Motion Picture Distributors Association of Australia.

"We will never be a rival to Hollywood, but I'm very proud of what we have achieved and I think we will continue to grow at the same rate," said John Morris, chief executive of the Australian Film Finance Corp., which partly funds feature films.

"We make a very big dent, considering the fact that we are a very small country, interested in making films that we're interested in — the only good films that are ever made are those that arise out of a country's organic culture."

Australian cinema has come a long way in the last few decades. From the 1930s until about 1970, the local film industry was just about dead, crushed by Hollywood and British studios and their distributors.

"Up until the late 1960s, no Australian heard an Australian accent on the screen," Adams recalls. When the local film industry was revived in the early



Mel Gibson in a scene from Mad Max

1970s, "it was extraordinary — we had to teach Australian actors their accent."

The Australian government in 1969 decided to revive the film industry with direct grants for promising projects, and from 1972-78 every state established film corporations to promote local productions. The Australian Film and Television School opened in 1973 to train a new generation.

In 1981, the government gave the film industry new

encouragement by adopting a tax law that gave breaks to investors in Australian films.

An explosion of pent-up creative energy burst forth, with new directors making enduring reputations:

— Bruce Beresford directed Puberty Blues and Breaker Morant.

— George Miller directed Mad Max, The Road Warrior, Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome and The Man From Snowy River.

— Peter Weir filmed Picnic At Hanging Rock, Gallipoli and The Year Of Living Dangerously.

— Fred Schepisi directed The Chant Of Jimmie Blacksmith.

— Gillian Armstrong directed My Brilliant Career.

"We're not doing too bad as niche filmmakers," Adams said.

But clearly the industry leaders want to break out of

the Australian pigeonhole and penetrate the international market more effectively.

"It is our industry's challenge, I think, to learn to present our ideas and our perceptions in a way that makes them as readily touching, funny, recognizable and understandable to foreign audiences as they are to Australian audiences," said Christopher Lovell, chairman of the Australian Film Finance Corp.

Investors willing to bet on success of Paul Hogan's western flick



Paul Hogan in Crocodile Dundee

SYDNEY (AP) — Paul Hogan knows that Australians love to gamble, so when he needed financing for his newest film, Lightning Jack, he let the little guy in on the action by selling stock in it at a dollar a share.

Hogan already is ahead on his gamble; the new company, Lightning Jack Film Trust, raised \$25 million late last year and was oversubscribed.

Since then, the price per share on the Australian Stock Exchange has nearly doubled to \$1.90.

"Woolworths (food and department stores) is probably a nice steady investment, but I suspect Lightning Jack is a little more exciting," Hogan said when the stock was floated.

Hogan turned to this unprecedented method of financing a film to maximise his potential profits, and to retain financial and artistic control, said Tim Crommelin at Morgan Stockbroking Ltd. in Brisbane, which managed the stock market float.

Since Hogan and his shareholders have taken the financial risk, he will be able to cut better deals for distribution without giving the studios a large share of the profits in exchange for financing.

Morgan Stockbroking is confident that if Lightning Jack opens to a critical and public acclaim, shareholders will be paid their first dividends just a few months later. Future dividends would be paid out of earnings from video rentals and other secondary earnings.

The shares become worthless after seven years, but still should be profitable to buy because of the dividends and tax breaks the government offers to investors in the arts.

"I hope it works, because a lot of moms and dads who had faith in Paul Hogan put their money into it," said John Morris, chief executive of the Australian Film Finance Corp., the usual source of funds for feature films.

Shareholders will be able to sell their shares any time during the planned seven-year life of the company, which is publicly listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. However, the value of the shares will probably decline rapidly after the first few years and will be worth nothing when the trust dissolves in the year 2000.

Investors also get a hefty tax deduction, part of Australian government policy to encourage investment in the film industry. An investor who bought a share for \$1 last year could have deducted 45 cents of his 1993 taxes and another 45 cents on the 1994 taxes.

Lightning Jack is a return to familiar form for Hogan after his last film, Almost An Angel, bombed at the box office. Hogan basically is playing Crocodile Dundee on a horse in the character of Jack Kane, an Australian who goes to the American west to make a reputation robbing banks.

Simon Wincer directed, coming off his Free Willy success, and capitalising on his past western experience as director of the blockbuster miniseries Lonesome Dove.

Film industry insiders gave Lightning Jack a nod as one of the Australian films likely to be a big success this year, despite the generally unfavourable reviews it received when it opened on March 11 in U.S. theatres.

Other films that could become this year's Strictly Ballroom (last year's Australian phenomenon) include:

— Sirens, with Sam Neill portraying Norman Lindsay, a painter of robust, lusty nudes and author of sexually frank novels, who scandalised strait-laced Australia from the 1920s through the 1940s.

— The Sum Of Us, based on David Stevens' comic stageplay, about a father's love and acceptance of his son, who is homosexual. Jack Thompson, who won the supporting actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his role as the lawyer in Breaker Morant, plays the father. Russell Crowe, last seen as a neo-Nazi in Komper Stomper, portrays the loving son.

— Country Life, a romantic comedy starring Sam Neill and Greta Scacchi, based on an Anton Chekov play. Set in the outback in 1919, it deals with a young Englishwoman who comes to live on a country estate, where her beauty disrupts the household.

Contenders for success on the art house and cult film circuit are:

— That Eye The Sky, directed by Fred Schepisi and starring Peter Coyote. A film that blurs the line between reality and the supernatural, involving a farm family that falls apart when the father is injured critically in an automobile accident. A mysterious stranger arrives to offer the family help and salvation, but deserts them in their hour of need. It is adapted from the Tim Winton novel of the same title.

— Bad Boy Buhdy, a strange tale about a young man who has to adapt to the world after being locked in the house for 30 years by his mother. It won the Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1993 for director Rolf De Heer.

Fine materials and brilliant colours German 1994 fashion highly popular

FRANKFURT/MAIN — If German fashion in winter 1993/94 very often reminds one of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, classical elegance and outstanding quality are the essential features of German-fashion in spring/summer 1994, according to the German Fashion Institute in Frankfurt/Main. Wild leaps in styling are taboos, however alongside slim silhouettes swinging skirts, casual blazers and pants in all variations — often with elements of rural clothing — rule the scene. Glitter effects and pearl embroidery on blouses, pullovers and day and evening dresses are also very popular.

Brilliant colours are "in": ink-blue contrasted effectively with refined black; and the green spectrum ranges from bottle-green to sea-green and fir and remains of forests, parks, meadows and undisturbed Nature. Brick-red on the other hand — often mixed with cream and green — flatters suntanned skin and combines well with black and white.

The wearer determines the length of the hem herself, but long, split skirts dominate. The main thing is that the materials are fine. Natural fibres are very much called for: Cotton, velvet and silk, crepe, cloque and ingenious Jacquards, "cool wool" qualities, cashmere, flowing French muslin, brocade and silk materials for the evening, and of course also viscose and material mix.

There was also much applause at the Collections Premieres in Düsseldorf (in February 1994) — an offshoot of IGEDO, the largest fashion fair in the world — for jeans and leatherwear, casual knitwear fashions and for "waste disposal-free clothing": Low-pollutant and coloured with plant juices, they are being offered by more and more designers in highly-modern collections, as presented by Klaus Steilmann, the largest German and European manufacturer of outerwear, in 1992.

"Fashion needs surprises and, despite all the classic, also a touch of nonsense,"

said Karl Lagerfeld, the international designer from Hamburg who lives and works in Paris, in an interview. That also applies to men's fashion in 1994 where materials with a "soft" look (fresco, tropical, gabardine, panama, wool, cotton, tussah and wild silk, materials in Anglo-American style) set new accents. Thus also casual and flowing materials which earlier were reserved only for women are up-to-date for men. The suits are again somewhat "slimmer", and the trousers, too — with reduced pleats or none at all — are "close to the body."

The German outerwear industry with its about 100,000 employees and a turnover of about DM 20 billion a year — of which exports have a substantial share — has won friends around the world. It is seen internationally as creative — especially in women's fashions — and is associated with wearable elegance, masterly lines, first-class finishing and, not least, reliable delivery — Inter Nations.



German winter sport fashions: A reminder of the Winter Olympic Games in Norway in February 1994.

Japan's Shonen Knife on cutting edge of heavy metal

By Julie Sanchez
Reuters

NEW YORK — Like any exporter, Shonen Knife of Japan studied styles and trends in target foreign markets before shipping its newest product: An album that combines heavy metal and punk music.

Naoko Yamano, the lead singer and guitarist of the all-woman trio, told Reuters in a recent telephone interview from her home in Osaka that such American bands as the Ramones, Metallica, the Supremes and the Ronettes influenced Shonen Knife.

The band, which just released its new CD, Rock Animals, in the United States on Virgin Records, is getting ready for an April tour of America and Canada.

The trio, which also includes bassist Michie Nakatani and drummer Atsuko Yamano — Naoko's sister — last toured here in December 1993 with the Breeders and Nirvana.

Shonen Knife takes its name from a popular brand of Japanese pocket knife.

The band formerly sported colourful space-aged mini-dresses. Now it

reflects the resurgence of the American '70s style with miniskirts, vests and go-go boots.

Commenting on the recent near fatal overdose in Italy of Nirvana's lead singer and guitarist Kurt Cobain, who frequently travels with his wife Courtney Love of the punk rock band Hole and their baby Frances Bean, Nakatani said:

"He is a gentleman. He was a nice father, a nice daddy... Holding the baby and taking care of her... Usually, good people know the pain of others."

One of the few Japanese bands to shoot for rock-'n'-roll success in the United States, Shonen Knife has just finished a video of the song Tomato Head in which the band members portray inspectors at a tomato juice plant.

"On tour, I don't drink," Naoko Yamano said adding, "when Shonen Knife toured most every night we had parties. I usually drink tomato juice because I was worried about my health condition."

Nakatani added, "we are not party animals but we like to have fun."

Naoko Yamano said she had written the lyrics after

envisioning a "man with a tomato head. The head is a tomato and, the body, he's wearing a nice suit. I thought it's a heavy metal feeling."

Brown Mushrooms, a cut from their new record, was composed after dinner at an Italian restaurant in Manhattan.

"At the restaurant they served very big huge brown mushrooms. I thought mushrooms have other meanings. The atomic bomb cloud looks like a mushroom so I wanted to write about mushrooms," Naoko Yamano said.

The distinctly heavy metal song, Cobra Versus Monogoose describes a live attraction at a market in Osaka where a cobra is matched against a monogoose, and announces: "Big fight, we can't wait forever."

Naoko Yamano said, "people shouldn't use animals as an attraction."

Nakatani, who is also a songwriter, said the song Butterfly Boy featuring Thurston Moore from the New York band Sonic Youth on rhythm guitar, is about reincarnation but has several meanings.

Scientists report first proof AIDS causes cancer

By Richard Cole
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers have found that the AIDS virus directly causes cancer, and the discovery offers a possibility of better treatment for cancer and AIDS. It also raises doubts about the safety of some new forms of gene therapy.

The results could lead to safer ways to treat certain forms of cancer in AIDS victims, said the study's authors, University of California at San Francisco Drs. Michael McGrath and Bruce Shiramizu.

"This is the first direct evidence that we have a human virus causing cancer through some mechanism — not just indirectly by immunosuppression," Dr. McGrath said.

Cancers, including lymphoma and Kaposi's sarcoma, have long been associated with AIDS. But most researchers have thought the cancers were opportunistic, taking advantage of AIDS' weakening of the immune system rather than being caused by the virus itself.

The study, however, found that when the AIDS virus inserted its genetic

material into a cell's DNA it apparently switched on a nearby cancer-causing gene, starting up a less common variety of lymphoma called non-B-cell lymphoma.

The scientists spent two years reviewing 30 lymphoma cases, and found four in which the AIDS virus inserted itself into the same spot in a cell's DNA. Dr. McGrath said the researchers now have additional examples, and estimated that up to a third of non-B-cell lymphomas in AIDS patients show similar results.

The study is to be published on April 15 in Cancer Research, the journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. William A. Blattner, chief of the viral epidemiology branch of the National Cancer Institute, hailed the finding as an important step in understanding how a retrovirus, the class of virus that includes the AIDS virus, can cause cancer.

"This has been seen in animal retrovirus, but it's the first example of an insertional retroviral situation in man," he said.

Dr. Dawn Willis, a virologist and scientific programme director for the

American Cancer Society, called the study "a very exciting finding."

She said the link between AIDS and cancer was always considered indirect because no one had ever found HIV, the AIDS virus, in a cancer cell before. The discovery could suggest research in tracing the role of viruses in other cancers.

Dr. Shiramizu agreed. "It definitely leads us in some directions," he said. "Lymphomas, Hodgkin's disease — right now we don't know what's causing them." Now that researchers know where to look

for viruses, further discoveries are possible, he said.

But the study also casts a cloud over the goal of creating an AIDS vaccine from a form of the live HIV virus. The study authors and other scientists fear such a vaccine could trigger cancer genes while halting AIDS.

More broadly, the study raises questions about the use of any retrovirus in a vaccine, as well as their increasing role in the new field of gene therapy. Retroviruses can be used to carry a gene into an organ to correct its functioning.

"This causes a lot of concern over the use of retroviruses for anything — for vaccines or even gene therapy," Dr. McGrath said. "Hooking up a gene to a retrovirus and then infecting human cells might risk cancer."

Dr. Shiramizu emphasised that the study doesn't show the AIDS virus' exact role in causing cancer. Until that is determined, he said, long-range questions are still speculative.

Dr. Blattner agreed the implications for a future AIDS vaccine are worrisome.

"If this insertion was to take place, understanding the mechanism would be very important in considering a future vaccine," he said.

Dr. Irving Chen, director of the University of California at Los Angeles AIDS Institute, called the study very important if confirmed.

But he said it was important to know how often the virus-caused cancer occurs, and how long it takes to develop. That could determine whether a future AIDS vaccine is worth the cancer risk.

Alzheimer's drug has promise

By Gail Fitzer-Schiller
Reuters

NEW YORK — Seven out of 10 patients suffering from the debilitating effects of Alzheimer's disease can be helped by a new drug, according to the authors of two studies, but other researchers warned the benefits may be short-lived and accompanied by side effects.

The authors of the studies said 40 per cent of Alzheimer's patients taking the highest dosage of the drug Cognex — 160 milligrams per day — improved during a 30-week clinical trial while another 30 per cent demonstrated no further deterioration.

They told a news conference the most frequently observed side effect of liver toxicity is reversible when the drug is discontinued. In addition, most patients who dropped out of the trial due to elevated liver enzyme levels can resume and tolerate the medication once their liver recovers, they said.

"The take-home message from the study is that from using high doses of Cognex,

about seven in 10 people will benefit either by showing no further decline or by actually showing some improvement," said Paul Solomon, co-author of one of the studies and chair of the neuroscience programme at Williams College.

Cognex, also known by its generic name, Tacrine, is the only drug available for the treatment of Alzheimer's.

Manufactured by Warner-Lambert Co., it was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last September based on the JAMA studies, applications for approval pending in Britain, France and Canada.

Dr. Solomon said the side effects of Cognex are "well known and well established and through proper monitoring can be handled efficiently and without much danger to any of the patients."

But the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), which published the study, was more cautious and said that ultimately better drugs are needed to treat Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's afflicts nearly four million Americans and is considered one of the four leading causes of death in the U.S. It causes progressive nerve damage that leads to confusion, forgetfulness and eventually severe dementia and death.

Dr. Margaret Winker, senior editor of JAMA, wrote in an editorial that Cognex does not stop the degeneration of neurons affected by Alzheimer's but merely makes the remaining neurons function better.

"The effects on cognitive function plateau once the maximum dosage is reached and the clock of cognitive decline is set back by about six months patients will then continue to decline at the same rate," she said.

But Dr. Solomon said there were data to suggest that Cognex provides benefits for patients for up to 30 months on the drug. "Granted these (data) are out of context of the double-blind trial... But it's quite clear that patients on the average going out for 30 months continue to do better than untreated controls."

Dr. Winker also wrote that only 28 per cent of the

patients randomly selected to receive 160 milligrams per day in the Cognex study were able to remain on the drug long enough to complete the trial due to liver toxicity and other problems.

"Given the devastating consequences of Alzheimer's disease for both the patient and the family, a one-in-three chance of improvement may be worth the risk."

Dr. Winker wrote that at least one-third of patients experience adverse side effects such as nausea and vomiting at higher doses. Weekly blood monitoring must be maintained for at least six weeks at each new dosage and Tacrine treatment must be continued indefinitely for the effect to be maintained.

"New drugs must be developed that reverse the pathology underlying Alzheimer's disease, rather than temporarily palliate the process. Until then, Tacrine may be a reasonable drug for selected patients, who with their caregivers, agree that the problems and costs are worth the potential benefit," she said.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- Excited.
Our eyes become clouded when we are sad; they blaze with anger.
- Punch.
To punch: To hit with the closed fist, as in boxing. We slap with the open hand.
We smack with the open hand or a slipper.
To tap: To hit lightly (to tap your finger or a pencil on the table).
To rap: To hit quickly and smartly (to rap on the door, to rap someone's knuckles).
- The instep, the top of the FOOT from the toes to the ankle.
CLANKING: a ringing sound made by a heavy metal (chains clank).
SCRAPING: the sound of hard rubbing with a sharp edge (to scrape mud off your shoes).
SHUFFLING: the sound of careless walking without lifting the feet (to walk with a shuffle).
TRAMPING: the sound of many heavy feet together (the tramp of the soldiers).
PATTERING: the quick, light sound of taps or footsteps (the patter of little feet).

- Go for: attack
Went to: approached
Went away with: left with
Went back to: returned to
Went in for: entered (a race, a competition)
- They are all FISH.
SOLE: An edible fish that is related to the flounder.
TROUT: A freshwater fish that often has spotted body and is related to the salmon.
BRILL: European marine flatfish of turbot family. Valued as food.
BREAM: Freshwater food fish of carp family of Europe and Asia. Small head, narrow deep body, and arched back with dull silver colouring on flanks.

PUZZLES

- (A) Fruitful Changes
1. Slum — Plum 2. Ample — Apple 3. Peat — Pear 4. Grange — Orange 5. Current — Currant 6. Perch — Peach 7. Samson — Damson 8. Grade — Grape
- (B) Find the missing number
The missing number is: "81"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

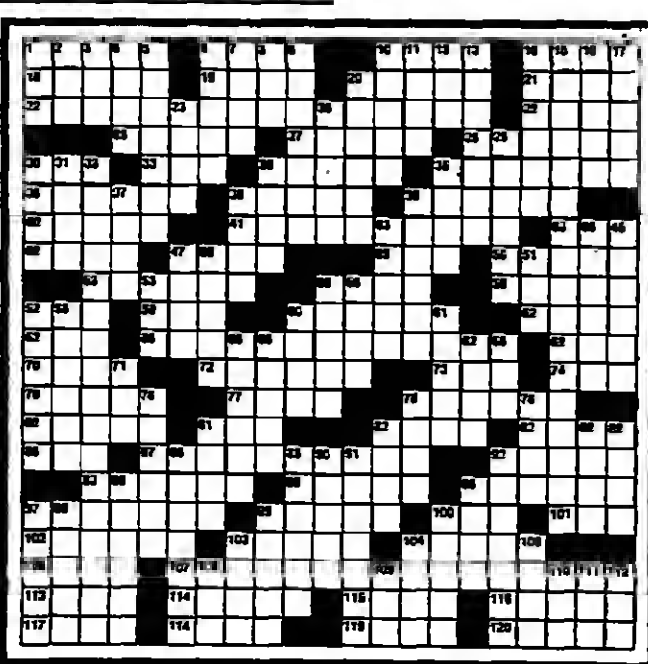
- Thursday, April 14,** crazy days at the Bel-Air Academy.
- 8:30 Da Best's On**
- 9:10 Bony**
Late Arrival
A man's body thrown from a speeding train starts Bony's tread into dangerous zones where robbers and murderers hang together.
- 10:00 News In English**
- 10:20 Feature Film — I Am The Cheese**
Starring Hope Lange, Don Murray and Robert Wagner.
In an effort to find the truth about his own identity and the past of his parents, a 15-year-old boy runs away from an asylum and starts his long searching journey.
- Friday, April 15**
- 7:45 Hotchpotch**
Our weekly magazine programme with Manal Azar.
- 9:10 Scene Of The Crime**
Chapters Of Terror
The writer of Chapters Of Terror is someone to watch for; because writing and describing ugly crimes in a book is one thing, but being the perpetrators of such crimes is another.
- 10:00 News In English**
- 10:20 Black Powder**
- Saturday, April 16**
- 7:45 Charlie Chaplin**
Some of Charlie Chaplin's best silent movies, such as Ace On The Ballroom Floor; The Tramp and The Pawn Shop.
- 8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air**
Day Damn One
William amuses the kids with his stories about his
- 9:00 The Campbells**
Peter Was A saint
The house-robber Peter enters Campbell's home as a related cousin. The suspecting James demands a full explanation.
- 9:30 One To One**
- 10:00 News In English**
- 10:20 Feature Film — A Doll's House**
Mistreated by a harsh and domineering husband, a wife leaves her home and her three children. Living like a stupid doll in a doll's house has now become unbearable.
- Sunday, April 17**
- 7:45 Zero One**
A science programme, dealing with the following topics: Using herbs in medicine, new computer technologies, a geological survey and expedition team in the Himalayas to study the history of the earth.
- 8:30 You Bet Your Life**
Our weekly entertaining quiz show, with offered prizes that reach \$10,000, the show is hosted by Bill Cosby.
- 9:10 Stolen Lives**
Dawn starts her long journey to find her true identity. It all starts with her mother Evelyn, who steals a baby and pretends it is hers.
- 10:00 News In English**
- 10:20 Island Son**
Viruses
The scary word "AIDS" shakes a whole school, as a girl student gets it by way of blood transfusion.
- 11:15 The Upper Hand**
Dinner For Two
Bryan and Sue's strenuous efforts to dine together fail.
- Monday, April 18**
- 7:45 Science World**
This week Science World is on gene therapy in fighting diseases, computer imaging in dental treatment and live communications between students in America and astronauts in space, in what is described as a "space classroom."
- 8:30 The Nanny**
Nuchshlip
Maggie's father agrees that she goes out on a date with Eddie, on condition that the Nanny chaperons them.
- Wednesday, April 20**
- 7:45 Great Moments In Science & Technology**
8:30 Too Close For comfort
An innocent kiss on Henry's cheeks from a beautiful young girl turns his life upside down.
- 9:00 Prism**
Cement
This week Nida Ramahi takes a comprehensive and statistical look at the cement production industry in Jordan.
- 9:10 The Best Of Magic**
- 9:30 The World Of The Thirties**
A documentary about the Sino-Japanese War, an independent Ireland that joined the Commonwealth, the killing of Yugoslavia's king by the Serbs and the Croats, the growing power of the Nazis and car manufacturing in France.
- 10:00 News In English**
- 10:20 Poldark**
In business, Ross' farm produce is on the up and up, his mines are being restored. In his personal life, the poor and young girl he employed at home is giving him headaches.
- 11:10 Paul McCartney-Live**

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

VERY PROPER NAMES
By Arthur S. Verdica

- ACROSS**
1. A noun
 2. Street west
 3. A verb
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. When our senior citizens deny today's pop music, how do they explain "Malibu Days" on their old Hit Parade? Exception!
2. Young diplomat's mouth contains, among other things, a collage of family pictures and his college diploma.
3. Declining output at automobile plant is charged to high absenteeism rate.
4. Earthquake expert expects to get questions after earthquake forecast.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FORJ AOSLJ BCK OX C QRAKXJ HFCXTIT
TATM MORT YFTHRA LKFRM PEJEXJL
WDFMTM CXJ BTCKXJ QDSF ITFFCM
CFHJXJ HWT FKXJ

—By Earl Ireland

2. TOYS TXVE NAFSA GEE AONOE KAOM NA
TOJEM DAY CIEVFBEV. IN RZYNN
REJEFM OVAHAGS CZN ROJIM AZYM

—By Duane H. McGogy

3. POEUS TAVUGET, EM ORDM GAAMRTE
HRMS SEBSAUM MRPAMET DAVREYIU
ORBIDA, FVIONAM YIM, "HAVV, SAVVY,
NEVER."

—By Ed Heddlow

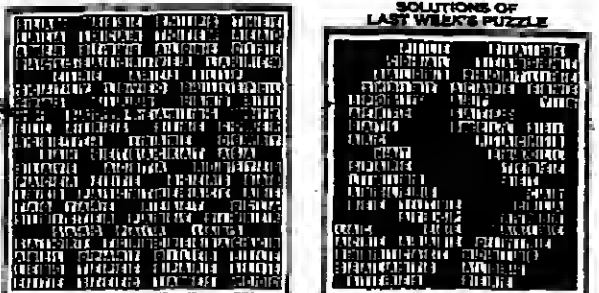
4. QUE CUISINES YUUE INES YUEEST YUT
ULT QULTISM YNMCST.

—By Barbara J. Ragg

Diagramless 19 x 10. By Frances Barton

- ACROSS**
1. Dog's foot
 2. Adam's grandson
 3. A verb
 4. A verb
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Bus blast kills 6 in Hadera

(Continued from page 1)

A second bag left on a bench just outside the bus was timed to go off at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), when sirens sounded nationwide for two minutes to remember the war dead and virtually everyone stands at attention, police said. It exploded harmlessly after police sappers were called in.

Bus passengers said someone outside had noticed the abandoned black bag on the bench and were yelling at the driver to get out of there when the bomb inside detonated.

Blood, flesh, glass and burning metal flew in all directions. The military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said it carried out the bombing.

A message broadcast over mosque loudspeakers in the strip said Hamas's Qassam Brigades are responsible for the bomb attack in Hadera. A Hamas suicide car bomber killed seven Israelis last Wednesday in the northern town of Afula.

Mohammad Nazzari, the Hamas representative in Jordan, said Al Qassam Brigades vowed a total five attacks to avenge the Hebron massacre.

Reports from the occupied territories say the heroic operation was carried out by Izzeddin Al Qassam Brigades (the military wing of Hamas), Mr. Nazzari said.

This is another heroic operation in retaliation to the Hebron massacre. We are awaiting more of such operations promised by Al Qassam Brigades," Mr. Nazzari said.

Mr. Nazzari said the Hadera bombing would "spread joy in the occupied territories and prove that the Palestinian people are indifferent to the peace process."

Passengers did not remember anyone suspect on the bus. The dead and wounded from both recent attacks have included Israeli-Arabs.

After the car-bomb April 6 in Afula, Israel closed access to Israel to all two million Palestinian residents from the occu-

pied territories until further notice. But Mr. Rabin noted that a hermetic seal was not possible given that 10,000 Israeli-registered cars, many belonging to settlers, cross the line daily.

The attack sparked angry reactions in Hadera, a working class town. More than 50 protesters gathered near the station chanting "death to the Arabs" and "Rabin is a traitor." The protest later moved onto a main road running through the town.

Right-wing opposition leaders called for annulling the Sept. 13 peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for Mr. Rabin to resign.

"The agreement Rabin has made with Arafat has made it so there is no place in the country where a Jew can travel safely," Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said. "This is a security and diplomatic failure that must be ended before more people pay with their lives."

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack, but Israelis saw it as halfhearted because they tied it to delays in implementing autonomy.

Israeli security forces were on a high security alert. After the Hadera blast, a spokesman for the national bus company appealed on the radio for drivers to stop their vehicles and check them for bombs.

Israel's police chief Rafi Peled told a news conference six people were killed and some 30 wounded in the explosion.

Witnesses said the powerful blast blew apart bodies. Hours later, the dead had not been removed because the bodies were so badly mutilated.

Police sappers wearing heavy protective gear carefully checked one body, apparently an Arab guerrilla, for more explosives.

"He must have held the bomb to his stomach. Afterwards there were just shreds left on him. The upper body was there, everything else was ashes or cooked meat," witness Boaz Melita said.

Arafat condemns 'extremists'

(Continued from page 1)

lating towns... supporting and encouraging the fanatic settlers to continue practising the most horrible acts of aggression."

The tough tone of his speech ran counter to a conciliatory note struck by PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath at the autonomy talks, which were adjourned for at least four days in Cairo on Tuesday.

The PLO leader said Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza were more than an obstacle to peace. "Today, and I say it with regret, they have become an alternative to peace," he said.

The Cairo talks made progress on the issues of the composition of a Palestinian police force and the release of 5,000 Palestinian prisoners.

But Israel continued to balk at PLO insistence that Hamas prisoners should be among those released, a concession which the PLO wants in order to reinforce its claim that it is negotiating for all Palestinians and not merely its

own faction. Mr. Rabin, calling Wednesday's bombing in Hadera a "despicable murder, said he was determined not to allow militants to wreck Israeli-PLO peace efforts.

"Today a despicable murder of peaceful Israeli citizens was carried out by the organisation at the forefront of murderous activities against Israelis since the signing of (the Israeli-PLO) declaration of principles," he told Israel Radio.

"I mean Hamas and its terrorist arm, the units of the Izzeddin Al Qassam," he said.

He said Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace deal and claimed responsibility for the Hadera blast and the Afula car-bomb, hoped to kill chances for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

"There are those who say the peace talks have to be stopped. What this will lead to is more elements joining in the terror," Mr. Rabin said.

Government assures IAF

(Continued from page 1)

deavour to apply the law and protect the dignity of citizens," it said.

In their letter to the prime minister, the IAF deputies appeared to concentrate their defence on former Afghan fighters who were arrested after security forces connected some of them to a series of bomb blasts in third-class cinemas in Amman and Zarqa.

"Jordan has never lived for itself alone but strove to serve the nation and higher causes... from this vision some of our young men flew to Pakistan and Afghanistan when that Islamic nation fell under Soviet occupation and their deed was compatible with the wishes of their people, government," the IAF deputies said in their memorandum to the prime minister.

"People like these should under no circumstances be accused unless we want to also accuse the Jordanians who answered the call of duty in Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, and others," the memo added.

"We refuse that contributing to help others of our faith in Afghanistan be considered a crime," the memo concluded.

The IAF deputies also criticised what they said was a wave of arrests of university students. They also said that there were "regretful events in the University of Jordan from parties known to the security forces aimed to influence the students."

"The IAF deputies were particularly careful in their criticism of the arrest of persons connected to bomb blasts and bombing attempts. While condemning 'any act which targets any institution on the land of our country and any attempt to destabilise the atmosphere in the country and hope that those involved in these kind of acts would be referred to court,' the memorandum said, the IAF 'also believes that a defendant remains innocent and should exercise his right to defend himself until proven guilty.'"

The IAF deputies also criticised the crackdown on members of the Fateh Revolutionary Council (Abu Nidal) group after their group was connected to the gunning down of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah in Beirut in January.

"While we condemn this ugly crime against a faithful son of Jordan we condemn the indiscriminate arrests," the memorandum said.

Dr. Anani said that the prime minister had listened to the IAF's arguments and impressed on them that he believed there were "sound and convincing reasons" for the detentions.

"But in light of the fact that they had come asking him to look into the case and the charges of the relatives, the premier said that he was going to check their claims and come back to them with his findings," Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Majali, the information minister said, also told the IAF deputies that "he will make sure that justice takes its course."

Air strike could pit Serb military against politicians

By Slobodan Lekic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — A key casualty of NATO's air strike outside Gorazde may be Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, who blundered badly by misjudging the international community's resolve.

The burly, 53-year-old general is idolised by his troops, but Gen. Mladic's opposition to any compromise to end the two-year war in Bosnia-Herzegovina has made him increasingly unpopular with Serb political leaders.

Politicians could seize on the NATO strike as a chance to cut Gen. Mladic down to size, or even replace him.

Gen. Mladic had been talking with U.N. commanders since Thursday about an overall ceasefire between Serb and Muslim-led government forces.

But on Sunday, Serb fighters pressed on into the Gorazde enclave, threatening the town itself. U.N. officials said they tried to contact Gen. Mladic to get him to stop, but got no answer.

Many Western analysts hold Gen. Mladic responsible for some of the worst excesses of the wars that have erupted since the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991.

Assisted by the Yugoslav army, and fully exploiting their overwhelming superiority in heavy weapons, forces under his command occupied a large swath of Croatia and more than 70 per cent of Bosnia.

But most of his victories came against hastily formed, lightly armed opponents, and recently, Gen. Mladic's reputation was hurt by the failure of ambitious Serb offensives against Olovo in January and Maglaj a month later.

In both campaigns, the Serbs failed to make significant gains against the Muslim-led Bosnian government army, which has steadily grown in size and combat experience.

Those failures may have motivated Gen. Mladic to attack Gorazde, the only Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia without U.N. peacekeepers, and perhaps the only government-held region he could still hope to conquer.

Gorazde has been cut off since the war began. It is defended by a lightly armed militia and cannot be significantly reinforced by the Bosnian army.

Geo. Mladic grew up militarily in the Communist Yugoslav army and embraced its ideology of "brotherhood and unity" among Yugoslavia's ethnic groups. In Croatia's 1991 war, Gen. Mladic commanded Yugoslav army forces in the heart of the Serb separatist rebellion, but forbade his soldiers to replace their Communist red star insignia with Serb badges.

But his transformation was swift and total in Bosnia. He now routinely talks of "Serbian martial traditions," "the Serbian national interest" and "a unified Serbian state."

Battlefield successes enabled Gen. Mladic to demonstrate independence not only from Serb political leaders in Bosnia, but also from president Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, regarded as the region's powerbroker and chief instigator of the war.

Last spring Gen. Mladic's fiery speech to the self-styled Bosnian Serb assembly persuaded delegates to reject a U.N.-backed peace plan supported by both Mr. Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The Serb president is not expected to forget or forgive.

Mr. Mladic's popularity and control over his 80,000-man army has given him a power base among radical Serbs in Bosnia, who see him as a potential replacement for the more moderate Mr. Karadzic.

"Although he was once a frequent guest in Milosevic's home, Gen. Mladic has recently become making the Serbian president dangerously nervous," Montenogro's independent Monitor weekly said this week.

Gen. Mladic's potential ability to derail any peace settlement that includes the return of territory to the new Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia is believed to worry Mr. Karadzic, who is ready to return land for peace.

It also worries Mr. Milosevic, who hopes a peace settlement will bring an end to international sanctions — imposed against Serbia and Montenegro — for fomenting the Bosnian war — that have devastated Serbia's economy.

Gen. Mladic is said to be particularly scornful of Western armies, based on U.N. peacekeepers' centrality in past showdowns with the Serbs. That overconfidence may have contributed to his decision to ignore U.N. demands to call off the Gorazde attack Sunday.

Milestones on S. Africa's road to democracy

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's key milestones to majority rule:

1948 — National Party takes power on segregation ticket and starts to institutionalise apartheid.

1959 — Government creates 10 black homelands, giving whites 87 per cent of the land and leaving barren 13 per cent to black majority.

1960 — March 21 — Sharpeville massacre in which police kill 69 blacks protesting against Pass laws.

1961 — Government bans African National Congress (ANC) and other black anti-apartheid groups. ANC military wing begins attacks on military targets.

1964 — ANC General Secretary Nelson Mandela gets life sentence for treason while already in prison for leaving country illegally.

1976 — Soweto uprising by students protesting against inferior education for blacks. Within six months 600 people are killed and thousands of youths leave the country to join ANC armed wing.

1990: February 2 — Mr. de Klerk announces end to apartheid, unbans black opposition groups and frees Mr. Mandela from 27 years' imprisonment nine days later.

May 24 — First government-ANC talks. They commit themselves to speedy political settlement.

1993: April 1 — First fully representative forum with 26 parties forms working groups on transition to Democracy.

July 2 — Negotiators confirm April 27, 1994, as date for first all-race elections. Zain Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, his KwaZulu black homeland and pro-apartheid white Conservative Party walk out in protest.

Nov. 17 — Interim constitution adopted at multi-party talks, boycotted by Inkatha and white right-wingers.

Dec. — Last white parliament passes democracy legislation. Multi-party transitional executive council to oversee run-up to elections meets.

1994: January — Parties begin electioneering for April polls, boycotted by Inkatha, KwaZulu and barbed wire rightists.



NATIONAL HERO: Nelson Mandela

Mandela: president-in-waiting

By Angus Macswan
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Delirious crowds in dusty townships greet Nelson Mandela as superstar, saviour and president-in-waiting.

His campaign rallies are already celebrations for African National Congress (ANC) supporters confident of a sweeping victory in South Africa's first all-race elections in two weeks.

From herby to the world's most famous political prisoner, and now, four years after his release, within sight of becoming the country's first black president, his journey has given him a mystic aura.

"It is not a dream president Mandela is here," an ANC official told a crowd in the Bophuthatswana black homeland at the weekend.

The people are ecstatic. Stadium stands sway as they dance to a thumping African beat and ululations pierce the air. When Mr. Mandela arrives he circles the stadium and punches the air with his fist to cries of "viva."

Lean and looking a good

deal younger than his 75 years, he exudes charisma and has a regal bearing inherited from royal ancestors.

He is not a fiery orator but delivers his message in measured tones. Commentators compare his manner to that of a schoolmaster.

In his speeches he tells parents to stop their children skipping school. He tells ANC supporters involved in political violence that they are not wanted in the organisation.

From a stage in Tuang at the weekend he reprimanded a group of ANC members who held posters denouncing the local leadership. He then invited them down to lay out their complaints.

It was the performance of a tribal elder, not a pork-barrel politician.

In his home region of Transkei, often stricken by drought, he is known as "the rain man" in the belief he has rain-making powers. Prime cattle there are called "Mandela good".

At the weekend, he dropped in at a Methodist church hall in Atterberg township on the plains of Western Transvaal. He "toy-toyed" — a kind of

half-hop, half-tog liberation dance, with a crowd of women as they crooned African hymns.

He told them he prayed regularly during the 27 years the white minority government held him in prison. They replied they had prayed for him. The sense of communion was almost tangible. Mr. Mandela keeps up a schedule that would exhaust a much younger man and the pace is beginning to show.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said Mr. Mandela, a one-time lawyer and heavyweight boxer, still had plenty of energy.

"He keeps fit. He has a skipping rope and an exercise bike. Often he gets up at four in the morning to start work," Mr. Niehaus said.

Mr. Mandela always finishes his campaign speeches by telling people how to place their vote on the ballot which will include pictures of the party leaders.

"Put your cross by the ANC sign and the picture of the handsome young man," he says.

China's workers grow restive under capitalist-style reforms

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

Forty-five years ago, the Communists took power in the name of China's working class and declared it "master of the nation." Today, guaranteed lifetime employment is vanishing, layoffs are increasing and millions of peasants who migrated to the cities toil in sweatshops. In the struggle over succession that faces the party leadership, dissatisfied workers could pose the greatest challenge.

months. Disputes range from slow-downs to worker petitions against management to strikes, which are not strictly illegal, but aren't legal either.

Worker violence has been growing, although there are no official statistics. In one case, a woman who was fired from a Taiwan-owned textile factory set fire to it in December, killing 61 workers.

Most scary for the leadership, grassroots groups are challenging the Communist Party Labour Federation's claim to speak for workers.

In 1989, 1992 and again this year, independent worker groups have emerged, only to be crushed by police. Authorities arrested three men in March for helping form a league for the protection of worker rights and petitioning the national legislature to allow independent unions.

"Because official corruption worsens daily, citizen rights are not safeguarded," said a statement issued by the league. "Inflation, large-scale unemployment and the

decline of social order also worsen daily."

Underground activists distribute mimeographed pamphlets urging workers to unite.

"People are bitter that a nation claiming to be led by the proletariat does not even protect workers' lives and interests," said a pamphlet seen in Shenzhen. On it was scribbled, "copy and distribute this."

The party leadership is torn between its desire to keep faith with the working class and the need to shore up declining state companies by trimming worker benefits.

For the first three decades of Communist rule, workers held a favoured place in society. Factories belonged to the state and offered guaranteed employment for workers and their children, generous pensions and virtually free housing, schooling and medical care.

"There was a stated harmony between the interests of the government, the party

and the workers," said Greg O'Leary, senior lecturer at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Labour Studies in Australia.

"The party did try to act in workers' interests. Workers did see themselves as being represented by the party," he said. "All those common interests are being torn asunder by economic reform."

Determined to increase corporate profits, the state has put millions of workers on limited-term employment contracts and allowed layoffs of millions more.

Faced with an urban labour force too pampered and lazy to attract low-margin manufacturers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and elsewhere, the government has allowed peasants to enter the factory work force. Peasant-workers like Chen and Bao, accustomed to hardship and subsistence-level earnings, are the backbone of low-technology assembly lines that provide vital tax revenue for China's coastal regions.

Because of the growing discontent, the government recently dusted off a draft labour law first proposed in 1978. Passage is expected within months.

The law would spell out basic worker rights regarding wages and hours, set limits on an employer's right to fire workers and authorise each factory's union to negotiate wages and other work conditions. Many workers now have to negotiate individual contracts with their employers.

Shenzhen's province,

Guangdong, enacted its own labour law March 1, limiting overtime and requiring employers to provide basic insurance and health care.

Even so, workers in Shenzhen said their conditions have not changed.

"We have a union, but the union is useless," said Zheng, 25, who has worked for five months at a joint-venture television factory. Neither he nor his dorm mates could remember any workers going to the union for help.

Han Dongfang, who helped found a short-lived independent union in Beijing during the tumult of the 1989 pro-democracy movement, said the rights of workers will not be protected until they are allowed to organise their own unions.

Speaking in Hong Kong, where he has lived since being expelled from China last year, Han said the official unions always put party and government interests first.

"Violence often occurs, workers hitting managers, because there's no suitable bridge" between them, he said.

Mr. O'Leary noted that the worst abuses of worker rights occur in coastal factories that employ young people just off the farm.

"There are, by the best estimates, 100 million people in the countryside with no work," he said.

As long as that is the case, and as long as employers can count on a steady stream of newcomers to replace malcontents, it will be hard to end abuses.

SHENZHEN, China — Chen's workday begins at 7:30 a.m., when she and 3,000 other young women lower their heads over sewing machines to stitch clothes for export.

She works four hours, breaks for 90 minutes, works four more hours, breaks for dinner, then works another four. When the factory's sales are brisk, she closes her day with a final three-hour shift that ends at 1:30 a.m., for a total workday of 15 hours.

Chen gets two days off a month, and says she is usually too tired to do anything but lie on her bunk in the dormitory room she shares with 13 other women from villages near her own — women who, like her, are glad just to have a job.

"We don't want to work so much overtime, we're tired, but there's nothing we can do," she told a visitor to the dormitory, a spartan tenement with concrete floors, laundry hanging from windows and orange peels and food wrappers in the corners of an unlit stairway.

A dorm mate, Bao, said: "They tell us time is money."

Not much money. Not for these workers or for millions of others who make light industrial goods, mainly for export, at the factories up and down China's east coast that drive its world-beating annual economic growth of 13 per cent.

Pay for the hated overtime is just 1.2 yuan (14 cents) an hour at Chen's factory, which is owned by Hong Kong investors. That is below Shen-

zhen's legal minimum and the hours far exceed the legal maximum. But workers say local officials don't enforce labour laws for fear of driving investors away.

Other investors withhold wages for months to make sure workers don't quit. They provide no health care or compensation for work injuries, do not install proper ventilation or safety features and impose harsh discipline, such as forbidding the use of toilets during shifts.

This has made Shenzhen and other coastal boomtowns tinderboxes for labour unrest.

They are not alone. Workers nationwide are increasingly unhappy with their lot as the Communist Party pushes ahead with capitalist-style economic reforms.

Whether it's a question of attracting foreign investment by allowing below-minimum wages or of pulling a state-run factory out of the red with layoffs, workers see themselves as targets of reform.

With 89-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping looking increasingly weak and a succession struggle looming, calls for worker rights and denunciations of inflation and corruption could be more potent rallying cries against the regime than slogans for democracy.

Even the government, generally loath to acknowledge worst, recently disclosed that more than 10,000 labour disputes occurred in 1993, including 2,350 in Shenzhen in the first six

Developing Morocco hopes for big GATT benefits

MARRAKESH, Morocco (R) — Camel caravans that for centuries carried gold and ivory from Timbuktu to this red-walled city will be replaced by modern vehicles which Morocco hopes will boost its foreign trade enormously.

The new "vehicles" are in fact 22,000 pages regulating international trade in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to be signed by ministers from more than 120 countries in Marrakech on Friday.

"Few trading caravans have viewed this beautiful city with as much pleasure — and as much relief — as ours does," said GATT Director General Peter Sutherland at the opening ceremony of the final act of the Uruguay round.

"Very few trading caravans were on the road for more than seven years, and none carried such a priceless cargo," he added, referring to the long negotiations for what he called "the greatest trade agreement in history."

Mr. Sutherland told Reuters Morocco was chosen to host



GATT General Director Peter Sutherland (left) talks with Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Sagou (right) during the opening ceremony of the GATT ministerial meeting in Marrakech (AFP photo)

the final act because it is a typical developing country which will be protected from jungle law in the world trade arena.

But diplomats said it was also because Morocco was the first country to send an invitation, at a time when it was thought agreement was still a long way off.

Crown Prince Sir Mohammed VI, elder son of King Hassan II of Morocco, told delegates in

the palatial 1,560-seat Congress Hall that in the last stages of the negotiations Morocco had played "a moderating and unifying role... and a sustained defence of developing countries."

He added that Morocco had opted for political democracy and economic liberalism, echoing the government view that the country is an emerging market set for rapid development.

Since the caravan era, the

Moroccan economy has grown enormously and diversified into many sectors based mainly on mining, agriculture and industry.

Finance Minister Mohamed Sagou said recently Morocco stands to benefit from reduced tariffs for its agricultural and industrial exports and GATT will help it to break out of its long dependence on European markets.

More than 90 per cent of Morocco's trade is with Europe, but there are fears that a new deal with the European Union, due to be negotiated by next year, will not guarantee sustained growth of agricultural exports.

Like many developing countries, Morocco relies heavily on agriculture. It accounts for 20 per cent of gross domestic product, provides a livelihood for three million people, and employs 40 per cent of the workforce.

The Casablanca-based think tank La Conjoncture, which monitors the economy, said it expected the GATT accords would have "a very important

impact on our relations with the EU and its restrictive practices."

When the EU offered Morocco a new deal, billed as a partnership leading to a free trade zone, the Moroccans expressed fears it would have negative effects on exports like fresh fruit, vegetables and fish products.

Since EU member states like Spain and Portugal sell the same products in Europe, Moroccan growers and exporters say their products have been penalised by EU tariff, quota and pricing systems.

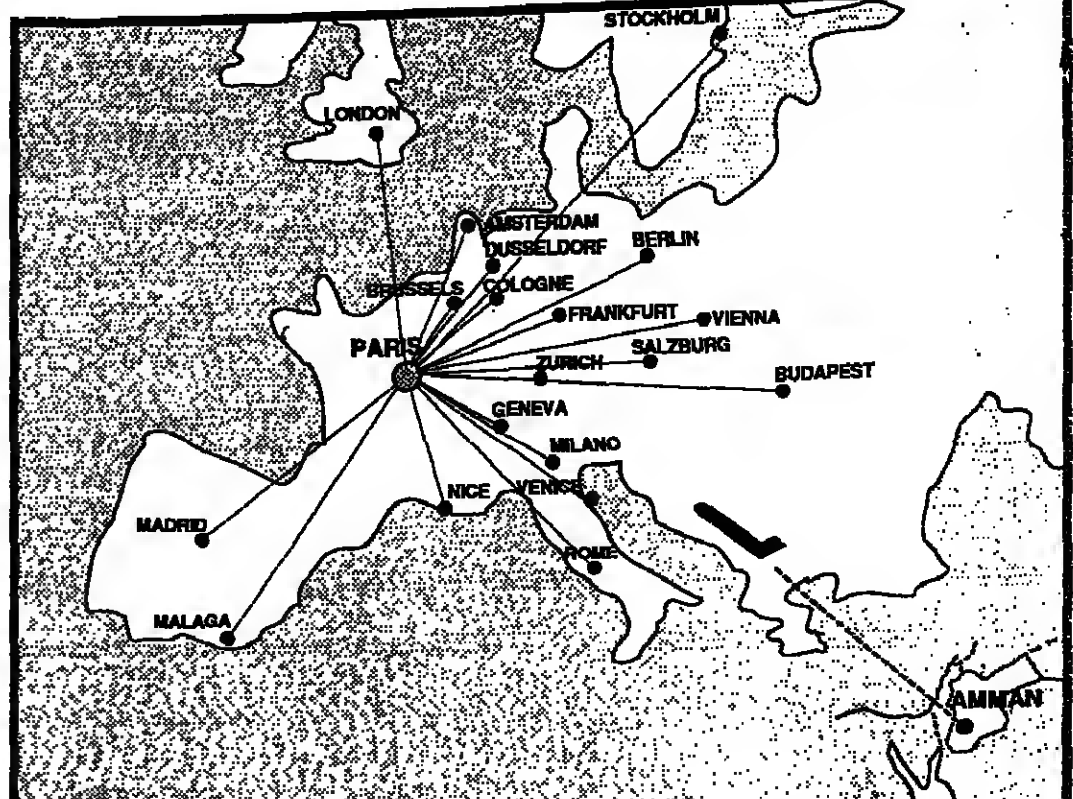
But in the industrial sector, the Moroccans are more optimistic. They expect diversification of markets under GATT will boost exports of clothing and footwear, for example, by as much as 60 per cent over a five-year period, La Conjoncture reported.

However, some industrialists fear dumping of cheap manufactured products could ruin them. "We are looking very closely at the fine print to see how we are going to be protected," said one who has a plant making electronic components.

He cited as an example the sudden appearance in Morocco of copies of a hand-held sewing machine invented by the U.S. Singer company.

"They are being sold here for 10 each. In Europe the proprietary brand costs five times that. When the guy selling them on the street gets a commission, his supplier makes a profit, and they are shipped thousands of kilometres from China, you wonder how anyone could possibly compete."

"Moroccans don't make sewing machines — yet — but this is the kind of problem that concerns everyone, in this case particularly the United States," he said.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi banks face demand for more loans

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's banks are facing mounting demands for government and private sector loans which could eat away at their liquidity and tighten borrowing terms, economists and bankers say. They said a 20 per cent spending cut in the 1994 budget of the Saudi government, which is strapped for cash due to weak oil prices, coupled with a growing private sector role in the economy is putting pressure on banks to provide more financing. The kingdom's 12 commercial banks can cope with the strain for the short term. But in the longer term, the banks may only be able to do so if oil prices recover and breathe life into the oil-dependent Saudi economy, they added. "The banks might be able to meet some of the demand for borrowing, but maintaining that depends on the economic situation which also depends on oil prices," a Saudi-based economist said. A senior banker said the Kingdom's economy in 1994 "is going to be weaker than in 1993. Oil prices are not likely to recover soon, the government is severely cutting back payments and the private sector is feeling the pinch every day." The economist said Saudi Arabia was this year putting a freeze on new projects, curtailing defence-related programmes and limiting expenditure to projects under implementation to 43 billion Saudi riyals (\$11.4 billion). For banks, this means "that we are asked to do more lending both to the government and the private sector," one banker said. "But the banks already have heavy investments and large loan portfolios, so we now have less liquidity and free money for clients. We will have to ration money," he said. "I know every bank is facing the same thing. We have been asked by all our established clients to increase lines of credit. We are saying we have to look very carefully at what business they are in and how well they are managed financially." The bankers said that Saudi Arabia's Monetary Agency (SAMA), the kingdom's central bank, has advised banks that they should reduce their lending and follow a strict policy on who to lend to. "The banks were advised to look very carefully at the clients and companies before giving a loan," one said.

Saudi cement flotation fully subscribed

MANAMA (R) — A 100 million share flotation for a new Saudi cement company has been fully subscribed, an official organising the flotation said on Wednesday. He said final figures were still awaited for the offering by the Tabuk Cement Company, but it was clear there were bids for all the 3.742 million shares on offer, at 100 riyals (\$26.67) a share. The flotation closed on Tuesday. "It's more than 100 per cent, but we don't have more information yet," the official said by phone from Saudi Arabia. There did not appear to have been the heavy oversubscription that has marked many recent Saudi flotations. Financial sources attributed this partly to the current slump in the Saudi market and partly to concerns some investors had that expansion plans by most of Saudi Arabia's cement plants may turn a current cement shortage into a future glut. But a company's main concern in a public offering is to have 100 per cent coverage, and the Tabuk firm succeeded in that. The total value of the flotation is 374.2 million riyals (\$99.8 million), founder shareholders had already bought 3.258 million shares worth 325.8 million riyals (\$86.9 million). The company plans to build a plant in the Red Sea city of Duba in northwestern Saudi Arabia, with a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes a year. It believes it will be well-placed to serve the northern part of the kingdom, and it is situated near some of the raw materials used in cement production.

Iran seeks Bahraini aluminium, iron

MANAMA (R) — A senior Iranian official is having talks in Bahrain on Wednesday on prospects of buying aluminium and iron pellets made in Bahrain for the country's materials starved industry. An Iranian diplomat said Ali Shams Ardaka-

ni, an advisor at the Iranian Ministry of Mines and Metals and a former Iranian oil negotiator at OPEC, arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday. Bahrain's official Gulf News Agency said he would discuss cooperation in industry and metal affairs with Bahraini Development and Industry Ministry officials. The Iranian diplomat was more specific, saying Iran was seeking aluminium and iron pellets, both produced locally. Aluminium Bahrain BSC (ALBA) is one of the world's largest smelters. It has capacity to produce 460,000 tonnes per year, though it has agreed to produce around 440,000 tonnes this year in order to support a weak global market. Iran has a small smelter but it is unable to meet domestic demand. The status is unclear of work on building a major aluminium smelter in Iran in cooperation with the Dubai Aluminium Company (DUBAL), ALBA's main regional rival. The diplomat said Mr. Ardakani will also discuss taking some of the production of an iron pellet plant in Bahrain, which has capacity to make four million tonnes a year. The plant, opened in 1984 but shut soon afterwards because of insufficient clients, was bought in the late 1980s by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's Gulf Industrial Investment Company. Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Hadi Neja-Hosseini was quoted in Iran on Tuesday as saying that 88 per cent of factories affiliated with his ministry faced a cash shortage.

Wholesale prices up 0.2 per cent in March

WASHINGTON (R) — A drop in oil prices limited U.S. wholesale prices to a modest rise in March, the government said Tuesday, suggesting inflation is in check for now despite fears in financial markets it is set to accelerate. The Labour Department said its producer price index rose 0.2 per cent last month after a 0.5 per cent jump in February, when bitter cold weather sparked a surge in the price of heating oil and other energy products. A gain in food prices, including those for beef and vegetables, contributed to the March rise.

Protesting farmers close national highway

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A few hundred tobacco farmers Tuesday cut off the main highway from Athens to northern Greece, demanding that the government buy some of their surplus crop. Traffic police said the highway had been cut off in two places near the central city of Lamia. They added that traffic was being diverted through secondary roads and advised people to avoid the highway. They also reported that other farmers had cut off the highway from the northern port of Salonica towards the Bulgarian border. It was the second time in just over a week that tobacco farmers cut off highway traffic along the country's main south-north route. Last week, they blocked all traffic for five days until the government agreed to review bulk prices for tobacco. Farmers also complained that the government had failed to pass on European Union subsidies and that prices did not cover their costs. About 10,000 growers produce some 17,000 tonnes of tobacco annually. The growers did not say how much of their tobacco they expected the government to buy. The socialist government has said it will try to solve the farmers' problems within the framework of the EU's common agricultural policy, which binds the trading bloc's 12 members.

Laura Ashley executive out

LONDON (AP) — The chief executive who showed Laura Ashley PLC how to run smoothly as a public company will leave following a dispute over future investment strategy, the clothing and home furnishings retailer said Tuesday. Jim Maxmin, who came to Laura Ashley in September 1991 from Thorn EMI, was on a two-year contract but the company would not provide details of his departure next month. Laura Ashley, a previously family-operated company that ran into problems after going public in 1985, would not elaborate on the nature of the dispute that led to Maxmin's departure.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Schedule your time and activities well so that you can accomplish the great deal you have planned. As Mars changes signs to Aries and civic affairs move to the front of your agenda, your energy will have to wait.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact a financial expert for advice you need. A cherished longing can be realised today. Avoid extravagance in all things which you participate in at this time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day for seeing an influential person who can help you in a new project you have in mind. Think constructively in way to get it done.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have fine ideas that should be put in operation at this time. Study a new outlet that could give you and family added income for the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are now able to find a better way for handling both business and personal affairs. Steer clear of trouble by all means at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be more aware of current trends and be more progressive. Obtain the information you need from the right sources and you will be very successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get much done now by using modern methods. Come to a better accord with fellow associates and maintain the same level of good health.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Bring your talents to the attention of those who can help you in the future. Don't let an opportunity which you desire get away from you now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can now come to a better understanding with family members and increase happiness. Be more optimistic about the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have a talk with associates and clear up any misunderstanding. Show more devotion for the loved ones within your immediate family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your monetary affairs and do whatever will improve them. Establish more harmony with family members and you will have much happiness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Showing fine ability at personal matters is wise, and this automatically helps you do better in business activities you are involved in.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Become more attuned to current trends and systems and make better plans for the future. Use extreme care while in motions or in your vehicle.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Even though there are no exact aspects today you can still accomplish a lot of routine activity as long as you don't try to effect any drastic changes. Expect to hear from a voice from the past.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be more willing to listen to the problems of others instead of concentrating too much on your own. Strive to be successful in any area you are involved in.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Find better and more modern methods of handling regular routines. Be sure that credit affairs are well handled by you at this time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show more appreciation to associates and gain their added cooperation. Don't spend more money than you can afford on any items you purchase.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think out how best to handle business responsibilities before making plans for recreation. Be wary of outsiders you do not know.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to keep promises you have made to associates and you gain added goodwill. Take no risks with your reputation now in any form.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can handle money affairs well after you have discussed them with associates. Social activities bring happiness in the evening to you today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study the most direct way to gain the support of a higher-up. Take time for the kind of social life that brings fine benefits to you at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Express new ideas that will help you get ahead in career matters. An unexpected opportunity come your way now, take advantage of it immediately.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to take care of an important civic matter at this time. Establish more harmony with family members and be very happy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your duties well and do them to the satisfaction of higher-ups. Don't take any risks at this time which could get you into trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Morning is best for handling personal affairs and later you can handle business matters wisely. Be poised to react to any situation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact the right persons who can help you advance in your line of endeavour. Use correct methods to solve a problem and get the recognition you deserve.

Banks to merge in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Oman Arab Bank and Omani European Bank will merge Saturday, marking the third merger in the sultanate's history. The merger, in line with government directives to strengthen Oman's banking sector, was finalised late Tuesday in a signing ceremony attended by journalists. It will come into force Saturday and the new bank will continue to be called Omani Arab Bank.

According to the agreement, all Omani European Bank shareholders will become shareholders of Omani Arab Bank.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOBOL
BYGAG
HOMARI
CLEFEE

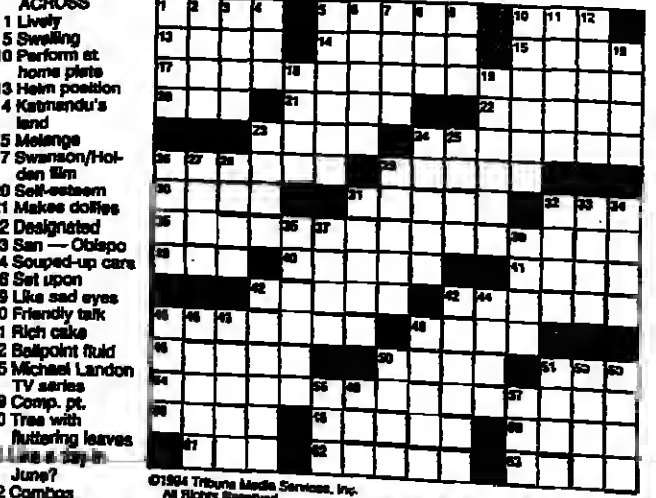


Print answer here: AND

Yesterday's Jumble: SHOWY CHICK LEAVEN GARISH
Answer: How the hot dog vendor handled his job — WITH 'RELISH'

THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jorgensen



ACROSS
1 Lively
3 Bawling
10 Perform at
13 Main position
14 Karmapa's land
15 Metamorphosis
17 Hymn/Hol-
den film
20 Self-esteem
21 Mashed cottage
22 Designated
23 Sam — Olobo
24 Souped-up cars
26 Set upon
29 Like and eyes
30 Friendly talk
31 Rich cake
32 Balpoint fault
35 Michael Landon
38 Comp. pt.
40 The web
41 fluttering leaves
42 Lure of stag in
June?
43 Cornucopia
44 Small fish
45 Buddhist structures
48 Bawling
49 Day's march
50 Crosby
51 Good deed
52 Downy
54 Hedonistic way
56 The swifter
60 Antarctica's waterfront
61 Russian Empire part abbr.
62 Mangle
63 Microbe
6 Half a Karyon?
8 Everything
10 Mine, Emma
11 Poplar
12 Weary
13 Good partner
14 Needle case
15 Main course
23 Slippy board
24 Wishing bird
25 Sworn word
26 Three partially
27 Pull oneself up
28 Poultry
29 Seasoning
30 Shopping bags
31 Secretarial abbr.
32 Clear name
33 South White
34 Waa cognizant
35 Gate
36 watchman
37 Burns is here
38 Eng. composer
42 Short coat
43 Reverend's residences
44 "The Gloomy
Dawn"
45 Musketeer
46 Highlanders
47 Pride members
50 Soft cheese
51 Unadorned
52 Move
53 Attention-getting word
55 Grenin
56 Deface
57 Fastener

Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



Asia's economic boom outshines rest of the world

1000

Buthelezi drops bombshell by demanding talks on poll date

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi dropped a bombshell in the lap of South Africa's foreign mediators Wednesday, demanding the date for the first all-race elections be put on the agenda.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is boycotting the April 26-28 elections in support of his demand for virtual Zulu autonomy, accused the government and his ANC rivals of conspiring to prevent mediators from ruling on possible changes to the date.

"This is creating an insurmountable problem. It means that there is no possibility that an acceptable mediation could be concluded on its own merits," Mr. Buthelezi told reporters in Johannesburg. "It is putting the cart before the horse. Our initial agreement with the ANC was that the issue of an election date could be discussed," said the Inkatha Freedom Party leader, drawing a swift response from ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamocopa, who said the election date was never up for discussion.

"That date has always been known... the question of postponement of the election was never intended to be part of this mediation... That date is

cast in stone," Mr. Mamocopa said.

One senior ANC official accused Mr. Buthelezi of "throwing his toys out of the cot." Government, ANC and Inkatha negotiators were due to meet in Pretoria later Wednesday to try to resolve the apparent impasse. It was unclear whether the main mediation effort, due to begin at a remote corporate retreat later in the day, would take place as planned.

President F.W. de Klerk and the cabinet were holding their regular weekly session in Pretoria.

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela said earlier Wednesday there was no question that international mediation could lead to a delay in the elections ending more than three centuries of white domination in South Africa.

"The date of the election is not on the agenda in this case," Mr. Mandela told reporters after informal talks with leading mediators Lord Carrington and Henry Kissinger.

Dr. Kissinger, a former U.S. secretary of state, reinforced that message, saying it would be "totally inappropriate" for foreign mediators to consider delaying what he referred to as the date for freedom for South

Africa.

"The date of the election is not a subject on which mediation can take place," Dr. Kissinger said after the meeting in a luxurious house behind high barbed-wire protected walls in a wealthy Johannesburg suburb.

Dr. Kissinger and Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary who brokered the transition from white rule in Rhodesia to independent Zimbabwe, head a seven-strong team of mediators called in a late bid to draw Inkatha into the transition.

Lord Carrington expressed frustration the mediators had yet to get a clear mandate, saying: "It's clear that the mediators can't mediate if there isn't agreement on what they are mediating about."

Mediation coordinators said the election date was not among terms of reference previously agreed by the main parties.

Mr. Buthelezi, who wants virtual self-rule in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, is demanding that South Africa's interim constitution be changed to allow greater regional autonomy.

His hardline stance added to the enormous problems faced

by the mediators who are trying to break the political deadlock threatening more violence ahead of the elections.

In one of the worst politically-linked attacks since a state of emergency was declared in Mr. Buthelezi's KwaZulu homeland and surrounding Natal province on March 31, seven people distributing election literature were burned and backed to death late Monday. Police, who discovered their bodies Tuesday, have arrested six suspects.

Police said a further nine people died to political violence in KwaZulu-Natal overnight, bringing to 193 the death toll in political violence there since the region was clamped under a state of emergency to prevent election bloodshed.

ANC and government officials said privately they held out little hope for success from the mediation, which will cover ground already exhaustively debated by the three sides.

President De Klerk said Tuesday after a meeting with international mediators that logistical problems virtually ruled out participation by the Inkatha Freedom Party in elections in two weeks.



Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi (centre) poses with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (right) and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Peter Carrington.

A seven-member international delegation is to mediate between IFP and the African National Congress on disputes that threaten the South African elections (AFP photo)

Karadzic: Serbs to treat U.N. as hostile

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Wednesday that Serbs would treat U.N. peacekeeping forces as a potentially hostile force after NATO jets bombed Serb positions around Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

Mr. Karadzic, in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, reiterated the suspension of Serb relations with the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), announced Sunday after NATO carried out the first of two air raids against Serb forces besieging the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Gorazde.

"All our agreements so far, and our good manners which we displayed out of our trust in you, are now a thing of the past, since we are forced to regard the behaviour of UNPROFOR as a potentially hostile force," Mr. Karadzic wrote in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Britain's Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, U.N. commander in Bosnia, ordered air strikes against Serb forces after they ignored warnings to stop shelling attacks on the Muslim pocket. U.N. officials said the shelling endangered the lives of U.N. personnel there.

General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, said Tuesday any NATO planes over Gorazde would be shot down.

"Excellency, after the bombardment which cannot be explained in terms any other than taking part in the civil war on the side of the Muslims, our relations can never be the same as before," Mr. Karadzic added.

Following the two air raids Sunday and Monday, Bosnian Serbs have blocked all U.N. traffic in Serb-held areas and put about 40 United Nations military observers under house arrest.

"You will understand that we can no longer cooperate with this UNPROFOR command which ordered the bombardment. You will also understand our increased caution with regard to UNPROFOR movements and the materials it transports," Mr. Karadzic said.

Russia said Wednesday that NATO air strikes had seriously worsened the situation in Bosnia and suggested Western leaders could now be tempted to resort more easily to force in world affairs.

A Foreign Ministry statement called for an end to what it termed "provocative" actions by all sides in the conflict around the U.N.-designated safe zone of Gorazde. "The international community must now save the situation," it said.

"What worries us is that declarations in support of force in Gorazde on the part of many leaders in the West could lead to recourse to force in Bosnia, and generally, in world affairs," the statement, published by the official ITAR-TASS news agency, said.

It said any use of air power in Bosnia should be coordinated in advance between the U.N. secretary-general and Security Council members.

The statement cited reports, without identifying them, that NATO was planning further "ultimatums" against Bosnian Serbs, bypassing the authority of the United Nations.

"We do not accept this path," it said. "We appeal to all sides to refrain from any provocative actions."

Russian peace envoy Vitaly Churkin said Wednesday he had won an apparent commitment from the Bosnian Serbs to stop their offensive against the Muslim pocket of Gorazde. "I think I've got a commitment from the Serbs that it's

not their intention to resume fighting," Mr. Churkin said in Sarajevo after meeting U.N. force commanders. U.S. peace emissary Charles Redman and international peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

"There is no fighting and shelling in Gorazde now," said Mr. Churkin on a shuttle diplomacy mission between the Serbs, the Muslims and the United Nations in Sarajevo.

NATO said Wednesday it was prepared to launch more air strikes in Bosnia if asked by the United Nations, despite Russia's objections and worsening relations between the Serbs and U.N. forces on the ground.

"NATO remains prepared to provide close air support in case of any further attacks against UNPROFOR (U.N. forces) in the performance of its overall mandate," a spokesman said after a meeting of allied ambassadors in Brussels.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton has applauded the "very aggressive view" taken by British Lieutenant General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. Protection Force, of his role in Bosnia.

"Every time we have been firm," Mr. Clinton told reporters "it's been a winner for the peace process, and I think it will be here" in NATO military action against Serb forces besieging the U.N. safe haven of Gorazde.

Meanwhile, a U.N. official said Wednesday the United Nations plans to resume air convoys in Bosnia this week. Convoy operations were suspended after NATO warplanes bombed Bosnian Serb forces attacking Gorazde.

Peter Kessler, spokesman in Zagreb for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told Reuters that the aid agency hoped to get the convoys moving Friday.

Ukraine, Russia try to defuse Black Sea dispute

KIEV (AP) — Top officials from Russia and Ukraine failed Tuesday to resolve a conflict over control of the Black Sea Fleet and the takeover of a naval base in Odessa, both sides said.

A high-level Russian delegation flew back to Moscow without signing a hoped-for agreement on an issue that threatens to widen the political gap between the two former Soviet republics.

In talks involving military leaders from both countries, Ukraine rejected Moscow's request to reform the fleet division that it said Monday was being disbanded and absorbed into the Ukrainian navy.

The Black Sea Fleet is jointly owned by Russia and Ukraine, although a majority of its officers and sailors are Russian.

"Those who violate the law cannot be allowed to serve in Ukraine," Maj. Gen. Volodymyr Petyenko, chief military adviser to President Leonid Kravchuk, told the Association Press by telephone Tuesday night.

Russia Monday charged Ukraine with storming the Odessa base, beating civilians and arresting three officers. Ukraine acknowledged taking over the facility but denied using violence, accusing Moscow of lying.

The incident began Friday night when a Russian-controlled research ship, the Chelton, took navigational equipment from the Ukrainian port of Odessa to fleet headquarters in Sevastopol.

Ukrainian Border Guards tried to prevent the ship from leaving, but armed Russian sailors resisted and briefly detained a Ukrainian officer. The ship sailed to Sevastopol with the equipment aboard and Ukrainian ships and planes in pursuit.

On Sunday, Ukrainian forces took over the Odessa base and arrested three officers and charges of theft. All were released after Russian protests.

Two sides are expected to begin talks on the issue in Moscow at a meeting of the Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Gennadiy Potemkin estimated that Russia's 50 per cent portion of the fleet is worth \$1 billion and suggested that Ukraine might want to sell some of its share to Russia to repay debts for natural gas.

In Moscow, Russia's natural gas company Gazprom and the Ukrainian government agreed Tuesday on a schedule for repaying Ukraine's \$600-million debt for Russian gas. Gazprom had cut shipments for a month in February to force Ukraine to pay its debts, which then stood at more than \$700 million.

Ukraine pledged to repay the remaining debt by the end of June — half in cash and the rest in pipeline equipment.

Hata called a leader in Japanese premier stakes

TOKYO (R) — Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata emerged Wednesday as a leading candidate to become Japan's next prime minister, although the fractious ruling coalition failed to make a clear-cut decision after five days of debate.

Coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, meeting reporters after the latest session, said partners in the eight-month-old alliance needed to iron out policy differences before deciding who replaces Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. "I don't know who has said (Hata is a frontrunner), but we have never discussed such a thing," he said.

But another coalition leader, who at first opposed Mr. Hata's candidacy, said Wednesday the foreign minister had emerged as a top candidate to take over from Mr. Hosokawa.

"Hata is the top candidate to

succeed as prime minister," DSP chief Keigo Ouchi told reporters.

Mr. Ozawa, co-leader along with Mr. Hata of the influential Shinseitō (Renewal Party), cited tax reform, deregulation and a new policy towards North Korea and its suspected nuclear weapons programme as key policy issues that required clarification.

"Before deciding on the sustainability of the framework, we must discuss how we should consider problems... and reach at least a rough agreement on these issues," he said.

Mr. Ozawa advocates introducing a new sales tax and taking a tougher stand over North Korea, two issues that could test the coalition's unity unless a policy line is first established.

The Socialist Party, which had threatened to leave the alliance over previous policy



Tsutomu Hata

feuds, opposes a new tax and favours dialogue to resolve the North Korean crisis.

Mr. Ozawa said the fact that the diverse coalition — conservatives, centrists and leftwingers — was continuing to hold talks indicated it would probably remain united.

"I think it would be good to sustain the present coalition framework as a result of (our negotiations)," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rutskoi may stand in presidential poll

ROME (R) — Former Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, who tried to seize power in an uprising last October, said Wednesday that he may stand in presidential elections due in 1996. Mr. Rutskoi, who launched the uprising against Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Oct. 3, said the Popular Party of Free Russia of which he is the chairman would meet next month to prepare for the polls. "If the party proposes me, I will (stand)," he was quoted as saying in an interview with La Repubblica newspaper. Mr. Rutskoi was released from prison in February, where he had been held since the uprising against what he said was an illegal dictatorship. He blasted Russia's new constitution introduced last year, saying it was imposed by force. "I don't recognise it. How can you recognise a constitution that was voted on by a minority of voters after shots were fired on parliament?" he told La Repubblica. Almost 150 people were killed in two days of fighting between forces loyal to Mr. Yeltsin and the rebels, led by Mr. Rutskoi and Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Yeltsin were elected on a joint ticket in June 1991, but their relations deteriorated swiftly to last October's armed confrontation.

Greece, Albania expel diplomats

ATHENS (AP) — Greece and Albania each expelled a diplomat after an Albanian claim that Greek troops crossed the border and attacked a military base. "The Greek government expresses its grief over these developments for which the Albanian side is solely responsible," a Foreign Ministry statement said. The statement came after Albania said it had given the Greek consul in Gjirokaster, Christos Iakovou, 48 hours to leave the country. Albania said it decided to expel the diplomat after charging that a unit of six or seven men dressed in Greek uniforms allegedly crossed four kilometres (2.5 miles) into Albanian territory Sunday and opened fire on a barracks in a military training centre. It said two soldiers were killed in the incident. Greece refused to accept what it described as an "unsubstantiated accusation" and branded the charge a provocation. "Greece does not have to answer for an event in which it has no involvement," Foreign Undersecretary George Papandreu said shortly before the expulsions were announced. He added that Greece had no reason to upset its relations with Albania.

Group warns against Russian travel

WASHINGTON (R) — An airline passenger group warned its members in a safety alert Wednesday not to fly in or over any part of Russia or any part of the former Soviet Union, even on top Western airlines. "The aviation problems in the former Soviet Union are across the board," said International Airline Passengers Association's executive director David Stempler. He cited "overloaded airplanes, lack of cockpit discipline, pilot error, ageing aircraft and even missiles fired at civilian airliners in areas of political instability." Mr. Stempler said the warning, in the IATA's April Travel Safety Alert newsletter, was the first such broad warning about any country or group of countries. The IATA told its some 118,000 members that as procedures taken for granted in the United States, such as aircraft safety inspections and regular maintenance in the countries of the former Soviet Union. "Added to this," Mr. Stempler said, "is a high risk of hijacking, severe winter weather, airline and government corruption and, worst of all, an inadequate and decaying air traffic infrastructure."

EU takes Greece to court over Macedonia

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission (EU) confirmed Wednesday it was taking member state Greece to court over the European Court of Justice over Athens' embargo against the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a commission spokesman said.

The commission, the European Union's executive, had given Greece a week to reopen its port of Salonika to Macedonia or face a court challenge.

"The Commission... confirmed the decision it made last week," the spokesman told a news conference.

Greece, which believes the landlocked former Yugoslav republic has expansionist aims on its own region of Macedonia, closed Salonika to Macedonian trade on Feb. 16.

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — North Korea should allow U.N. inspectors to clear the air if it wants the world to believe it has no secret nuclear arms programme, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said Wednesday.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix said his experts wanted to carry out full checks at a five-megawatt reactor in a "so-called radiochemical laboratory" to determine no plutonium was being secretly diverted for military purposes.

He said he hoped such checks could be completed by the end of April, in line with a call from the U.N. Security Council.

Western defence analysts believe North Korea has already built at least one primitive atom bomb and is working on a new generation of long-range missiles that could hit most of China, Russia, Japan and South East Asia. North Korea denies bar-

U.K.: No compromise with Sinn Fein

NEW YORK (R) — Britain's minister for Northern Ireland said Tuesday that the political wing of the Irish Republican Army must renounce violence before it can take part in talks on the province's future.

Speaking to the Foreign Policy Association, a private New York group, Sir Patrick Mayhew offered no compromise to break the deadlock with Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, over an Anglo-Irish plan to bring peace to the region.

The IRA has refused to end its 25-year guerrilla war against British rule of Northern Ireland, pending demands from Sinn Fein for talks to clarify the plan.

But Sir Patrick repeated British statements that the vio-

lence must stop first. He said another temporary ceasefire, similar to one that ended last week, would not be enough. "Even an indefinite ceasefire is not enough. It has to be a permanent cessation," Sir Patrick said.

He also said that, despite its statements on the need for clarifications, Sinn Fein has refused to say what specific portions of the accord, known as the Downing Street Declaration, that it wanted clarified.

Sir Patrick spoke at the same New York hotel where Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams had met with hundreds of cheering supporters this year.

Sir Patrick said Mr. Adams represented a small fraction of

the Irish people. "Let there be no illusion, Mr. Adams is no Nelson Mandela. The Irish Republican Army are not the legitimate representatives of Irish people north or south of the border."

In a separate event Tuesday, the group that invited Mr. Adams to New York, the national Committee on American Foreign Policy, heard from fervent Protestant Northern Irish leader Ian Paisley, who kept up his attack on the Anglo-Irish accord.

"That extreme declaration, as you know, was held by the British government and the Irish government as a sop to the IRA," he said. "The joint declaration demonstrates violence pays."

Diana's brother in libel battle with tabloids

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's brother issued libel writs against two British newspapers over reports he had business links with a convicted fraudster. Lawyer Simon Ekins, representing Earl Spencer, said the writs were against the Daily Express and Today tabloid newspapers. "Following certain press reports over the past few days concerning Lord Spencer and his alleged business links with Mr. Darius Guppy, writs for libel have today been issued by Lord Spencer out of the high court against the publishers and editors of the Daily Express and Today newspapers," Mr. Ekins said. Mr. Guppy, a friend from university days and the earl's best man at his wedding in March 1993 for his part in a £1.8 million (\$2.64 million) insurance fraud involving a fake jewel robbery at a New York hotel, Lord Spencer, 29, issued a statement last weekend denying any knowledge of Mr. Guppy's business affairs or the whereabouts of millions of pounds police believe to be salted away in various banks abroad. "I have no knowledge of Darius Guppy's criminal activities, nor the whereabouts of any alleged gains from these activities, nor have the police at any stage intimated to me that I might be able to assist in their inquiries into these matters," he said.

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Paper publishes topos picture of 'Fergie'

LONDON (R) — Britain's tabloid Sun Wednesday published a topos photograph of Prince Andrew's separated wife the Duchess of York that it said had been found at a rubbish tip. The Sun, which blocked out the breasts with a "censored" tag, said it had turned down a demand for £10,000 (\$14,690) from a man who found the photograph along with two others. The snaps were being returned to the duchess, 34, known as "Fergie", whose stormy marriage to Queen Elizabeth's second son ended in a legal separation last year. The Sun said the pictures were believed to have been taken on holiday on the Mediterranean island of Gozo in 1980 or 1981, some five years before her marriage. The Sun quoted gardener Peter Stone, 62, as saying the photo was one of three snaps which fell out of a stamp album he found at a roadside rubbish tip near Grantham, central England.

Russian gay couple fails to register marriage

MOSCOW (R) — An attempt by a gay couple to register their union in Russia failed for technical reasons but the American artist and Russian journalist said it wouldn't ruin their romance. "I am really sorry, but I cannot register your union because the law specifies marriage as a voluntary union between a man and a woman," Karmen Bruyeva, manager of Moscow's Palace of Weddings Number Four, told the two men when they turned up for registration, surrounded by a posse of journalists. "Why don't you apply to parliament and ask them to amend the law," smiled Bruyeva. "By the way, raise your hands those of you, journalists, who favour amending the law?" Robert Filippini, 41, and Yaroslav Moguin, 20, said theirs was the first attempt in Russia to legalise their union. The move would have been impossible in Soviet days. Sexual relations between consenting adult men was a criminal offence in Russia until the notorious Article 121.1 of the criminal code was repealed last summer. Men breaking the law were liable to up to five years in jail.

Skeleton of prehistoric horse unearthed in Peru

LIMA (R) — Scientists have unearthed the skeleton of a prehistoric horse that roamed the coastal flats of southern Peru some 300,000 years ago, officials said. Jose Pinilla, head of the Office of Investigation and Conservation at Museum of the Nation, said the discovery was made two weeks ago and may be the first complete skeleton of a prehistoric horse ever found in Peru. The find is important because it may represent a hitherto unknown species and debunks a popularly held notion here that horses were introduced by the Spaniards when they conquered the Incan empire in the 16th century, he said.

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JAHS Friday launches horse endurance race

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 63 horse-lovers will gather at the Alia Gateway Hotel at 6 a.m. Friday to begin the Al Harrah Castle Endurance Race, a first of its kind event organised by the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society (JAHS).

Participants, including Her Royal Highness Princess Inan Bint Al Hussein, will test the endurance of their favourite horses as they seek to complete the 60-kilometre race passing through the early Islamic site of Qasr Al Musbatta and finishing at Qasr Al Harrah.

The JAHS, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Aha Bint Al Hussein, have extended the invitation to all horsebreeders to participate, stressing that the race is open and not reserved for purebred Arabian horses.

However, only horses aged over 5 years will be allowed to take part.

Princess Aha emphasised that the event is not merely sportive, but a social and touristic one as it aims at reviving Arab customs and traditions.

Besides its due importance of exhibiting the endurance and power of the Arabian horse, the ride also opens a chance to visit two Jordanian desert castles.

Riders have been divided into three classes:

- an all-up weight of 91 kilograms, ramblers,
- an all-up weight of 75 kilograms and over,
- and juniors: For riders who are 15 years of age or less.

Her Highness, the president of the JAHS and the

Arab Organisation for Arabian Horses pointed out that the first prize would be given to the owner of the horse that would demonstrate high endurance and prove to be fit after an examination of fitness and stamina following the race.

The Princess also said that there would be three stops along the course to check any injury or exhaustion and make sure that the race is completed safely.

Participants represent the Royal Stables, the Aqaba Royal Equestrian Club, the Royal Polo Club, the Jordanian Equestrian Club, the Public Security Department (PSD), the Ibrahimieh Schools, Royal Jordanian (RJ), in addition to many individual contestants.

Her Highness said that such endurance races were now being organised alongside horse shows and that the purebred Arabian horses were worthy winners of such contests proving their well known fitness and endurance.

The race is fully sponsored by Coca Cola. Other sponsors include RJ, the PSD, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, the Badia Police, the Jordan University for Science and Technology, We Care, and the Ibrahimieh Schools.

The first such endurance race held in the Kingdom dates back to 1939, when 21 contestants took part.

The race was held on the same route of this year's Harrah Castle Ride, and was supervised by (then) Princess Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Talal Ben Abdullah, Sharif Shaker Ben Zeid, and Sheikh Majed Al Udwan.

Al Ahli starts U-22 basketball competition with impressive wins

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four matches are scheduled for Friday in the under-22 basketball championship — the first of the season's 12 competitions organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The nine competing teams have been divided into two groups: "Group 1" includes Al Ahli, Al Abbas, Homentmen, Yarmouk and Abu Nusair, while the second group includes Al Jazireh, Al Jafri, Al Watani and Gazet Hashem.

After the preliminary round which ends April 29, only the top two teams of each group will qualify for the second round in which they will compete for the first of the season's titles.

While group 2 play the first of their matches in Irbid Friday, all group 1 teams have already joined the action and Al Ahli and Abbas seem to be the two teams that will be able to maintain their standings as group leaders.

Al Ahli are in first place after scoring two impressive wins 125-71 (71-34) over Al Yarmouk, and 160-43 (73-19) over Abu Nusair. Al Abbas have also won both their matches 98-23 (52-10) over Abu Nusair and 71-43 (29-18) over Homentmen.

In the first of group 2 matches, former first division third place holders Al Jafri meet lowly Gazet Hashem, a second division team. In the other match of the day, Al Jazireh who are seriously eyeing the title will play Al Watani.

Like Al Ahli, Al Jazireh are expected to have an easy way to the second round, and have a good shot at the title as most of their players are well experienced after playing alongside their senior team in the first division.

Al Ahli and Al Jazireh's players have also represented the Kingdom in the youth's national team. Players include Mohammad Al Shama, H. Ramez Hammoudh, Ghalib Ennabi and Al Jazireh's new recruit, Nasser Alawoob who recently moved from Al Hussein for a

reported sum of JD 5000.

Others include Taimour Al Sbamali, Faisal Noor, Yusef Abu Bakr, Anwar Haddad and many others.

Since the U-22 championship was cancelled in 1993, many promising players have this year also missed the competition, as players who were registered as just under-22 in 1993 could not join their teams in 1994. JBF rules this year stipulate that only those born after 1973 can compete in this age group.

Hence, a large number of players who had prepared to compete last year have again missed the competition.

Most teams were undoubtedly affected by this technicality. Hence, titleholders Al Orthodoxi, who won the last U-22 championship in 1992 have opted not to compete this year. Similarly, Al Ashrafieh, Al Hussein, Al Karak, Al Wifaq, Anjarah, Al Mafrag and Al Husso clubs are not competing this season.

According to the JBF's 1994 regulations, first division teams are required to compete in at least two age groups, while second division teams in only one age group.

This year the first division includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Jafri, Watani, Hussein and Homentmen. Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the first division making the total number of competing teams only six in 1995 compared to eight until 1993.

In the first of the competition's group 1 matches, Al Ahli's players had a joy ride easily overcoming their opponents.

The pinpoint accuracy of the Shamali brothers enabled Al Ahli to outscore Al Yarmouk 71-34 in the first half

before ending the match 125-71.

Al Ahli scored a bigger win over Abu Nusair who were no match for the Kingdom's top team. Al Ahli played a tight full-court defence that forced Abu Nusair to lose the ball and lack concentration. Wisam Nino, Zeid Alkhas and the Shamalis scored to give their team a 73-19 lead in the first half before ending the match 160-43.

The surprise team of the competition will undoubtedly be Al Abbas, whose young team last year beat Al Orthodoxi to clinch third place behind Al Ahli and Al Jazireh in the U-19 competition.

Since then, their players have been playing with great confidence and will not settle for a halfway standing.

They proved their point by scoring a crushing 98-24 win over newcomers Abu Nusair. In their second match Abbas upset all-time rivals Homentmen 71-43 as both teams played a tense game which both needed to win to secure qualification to the second round.

Up until mid first half, the scoreboard showed a 12-2 Abbas lead before the combined efforts of Homentmen's star Ala Abu Rahmeh and Raffi Hayrabedian reduced the gap from 18-6 to 18-13. Abbas's Iyad Zalati scored 8 consecutive points to end the first half 29-18.

Abbas took control of the match thanks to offensive rebounding and follow-ups by Ashraf Samara and Ja'far Najjar to widen their lead to 49-25.

Homentmen's Vasken Homenian and Mohammad Qardan scored but Al Abbas still lead 68-41, before sealing their win 71-43.

GROUP 1 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Al Ahli	2	2	—	285	114	4
Abbas	2	2	—	169	67	4
Abu Nusair	2	—	2	67	258	2
Homentmen	1	—	1	43	71	1
Yarmouk	1	—	1	71	125	1

Mashburn jumper lifts Mavericks past Blazers

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) — Jamal Mashburn hit a jumper with under a minute left to snap a tie and the lowly Dallas Mavericks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 108-107 late Tuesday.

Dallas beat a team with a winning record for the first time this season and snapped a 13-game losing streak to the Blazers.

Jimmy Jackson had 24 points and Mashburn netted 20 for the Mavs, who won for only the second time in their last 21 games.

Clyde Drexler had 29 points and Rod Strickland added 22 points and 12 assists for the Blazers, who lost to Dallas at home for the first time since 1988.

At Cleveland, Bobby Phillips and Terrell Brandon scored 22 points apiece to help the Cavaliers clinch a playoff berth with a 119-91 rout of the Milwaukee Bucks, who lost their fifth straight and 16th in their last 18 games.

The Cavaliers are fifth in the Eastern Conference and will probably face Orlando in the first round of the playoffs.

Milwaukee has six losing streak of five games or more this season and has the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen had 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Scott Williams added 18 points and 10 rebounds to help the Bulls beat

the New Jersey Net 111-105.

At Los Angeles, Chris Webber, Billy Owens and Chris Mullin scored 25 points apiece to lead the Golden State Warriors past the Lakers 128-117 for their third straight win.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 42 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 98-89 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves for their fifth straight triumph.



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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE	
Marlon Brando in The Freshman Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Robby Benson & Jennifer O'Neil in INVASION OF PRIVACY Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' MR. JONES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' FOREVER YOUNG Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden	Look out for the surprise in the coming play	Two more weeks before the performances of the political comedy "Ahlani Arab Summit Conference" Come to an end	

NEWS IN BRIEF

King attends Special Forces exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited units of the Special Forces of the Jordanian army where he watched military exercises in which His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein took part. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aishah, Prince Abdullah, the commander of the Special Forces, and other senior army officers attended the exercises.

Iraqis only get half food needs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqis have received only half the amount of food they need since the start of the 1990-91 Gulf war, according to Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh. In an interview with the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mr. Saleh said the rationing card system introduced by the government had been the only thing that had prevented a famine. He said the state had bought meat, chickens, eggs and other goods and was making them available to people at subsidized prices. INA said statistics from 1990, the latest available, showed that buying food with ration cards provided people with 51 per cent of their basic food requirements. It added that inflation since then had eroded much of their spending power. Mr. Saleh told INA that a visit to Iraq in 1991 by an official team of the United Nations had been followed by the issuing of Resolution 687, which included a recommendation to lift the embargo on export of food to Iraq. Mr. Saleh said Iraq had been unable to buy food because the United States had put pressure on those countries which held Iraq's frozen assets.

Guerrillas attack Israel's proxy militia

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas on Wednesday detonated a roadside bomb as militia allied with Israel were on patrol, killing one and wounding another, security sources said. Four other militia members were unhurt in the attack, the security forces said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomb targeted the south Lebanon Army militia outpost near the village of Al Khiam on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the 12:45 p.m. (10:45 GMT) attack, but it carried the hallmarks of Hizbollah, which is leading a guerrilla campaign to force Israel and its surrogate militia out of the "security zone."

Assad meets with Turkish minister

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Assad held talks Wednesday with Turkish Interior Minister Nihat Menzese on security matters between the two neighbours. Turkish diplomatic sources said the two sides were expected to discuss the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting for Kurdish independence in southeastern Turkey. The sources, who spoke in exchange for anonymity, said the meeting was also attended by Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Harba. Ankara has long accused Syria of facilitating PKK attacks on Turkish soil. The PKK's 10-year battle with Turkish forces has claimed more than 10,000 lives. Syria promised last year to crack down on activities of the PKK on its territory, but reports from Ankara say PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is still operating out of Bar Elias in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon. Syrian support for the PKK gives Damascus leverage to demand increased supplies of water from the Euphrates River, which Turkey has dammed.

Southern Sudan gets relief aid

KHARTOUM (R) — A barge loaded with 600 tonnes of relief food has arrived in a government-held area of southern Sudan, stricken by 11 years of civil war, a newspaper reported on Wednesday. Mohammad Ahmad Al Gabooni, acting commissioner of relief and rehabilitation, told the government-owned daily Al Sudan Al Hadith that the barge "Mugran" had unloaded part of its cargo of sorghum, Sudan's staple, and other foodstuffs at the towns of Kalka and Melut along the White Nile. He said the barge would go as far south as Kodok and that preparations have been completed for a relief train to Wau, the south's second largest town. He said two barges are also to leave for the south taking relief aid for areas between Malakal and Juba. Rebels sometimes ambush convoys and are particularly active between Malakal and Juba.

30 injured in factory blaze in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — A fire gutted a packaging factory in the Sudanese capital Khartoum and some 30 people including 17 firefighters were injured, newspapers reported on Wednesday. The cause of the fire on Tuesday in the industrial area of Khartoum north was not known, but newspapers said it spread rapidly due to the presence of paper rolls and chemicals in the factory.

Lebanon sentences 2 Syrian soldiers to death

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's highest court sentenced to death two Syrian soldiers and a Lebanese accomplice for murdering two jewellers, state-run Beirut Radio said on Wednesday. The judicial council handed down the sentences for the murder of brothers Ghassan and Jaleel Antonious, shot during a robbery in 1992. The decision was the first issued by the court since the 1975-90 civil war during which it ceased to operate for several years. The Syrian soldiers, who were arrested in Syria and handed over to the Lebanese authorities shortly after the murders, were named as Abdul Karim Geeg and Mohamed Za'atar. The death penalties were believed the first by a Lebanese court against members of Syria's 35,000-strong garrison in Lebanon. The Lebanese suspect, Nimeh Hamadi, fled to Belgium after the murder and was arrested there. But according to Beirut press reports Belgian authorities refused to extradite him on grounds that Lebanon has the death penalty and he is now at liberty in Belgium. The sentences need approval from President Elias Hrawi. The last execution to be carried out in Lebanon was in 1983. Lebanon is getting tough with violent crime rampant since the civil war. Another court sentenced a 22-year-old man to death on April 1 for the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl.

Cairo announces death of top militant

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's top law enforcement official announced Wednesday that police had gunned down a leading Islamic militant, but the announcement came nearly two weeks after the slaying. Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali gave no reason for the delay, but it also follows the radicals' success last week in killing the government official most responsible for tracking down extremists. "We want to assure Egyptians that the security apparatus is capable, with God's help, to ... uproot the black terrorism," General Ali told a news conference at his well-fortified ministry. Gen. Ali announced that Adel Siam, leader of the military wing of Al Jihad, was killed in a police ambush after he shot at the encircling forces April 4. The killing of a militant was reported at the time, but no name was made public.

Denmark frees investigated Egyptian

COPENHAGEN (AP) — One of three Egyptians arrested in November and investigated for possible links to the World Trade Centre bombing in New York has been released from jail, Danish TEXT-TV reported Wednesday. The west Danish high court ruled against the Aarhus city court, finding that there was not enough evidence to continue to hold the man, the report said. The three Egyptians were arrested last Nov. 17 in Aarhus in western Denmark on charges of setting a Jordanian immigrant's house on fire. Police said the three have links to followers of Sheikh Omar Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who is in jail in the United States in connection with plans for a series of bombings in the United States. Newspaper reports said a list was found in the home of one of the arrested men. Itemising the contents of a bomb of the same type used to blow up the World Trade Centre last year.

FIS leader welcomes change of premier

PARIS (R) — The exiled leader of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) welcomed on Wednesday the appointment of a technocrat as prime minister and called for serious negotiations to end the country's civil strife.

In a telephone interview with Reuters, Rabah Kebir said the replacement of hard-line Premier Redha Malek with the relatively unknown technician Mokdad Sifi was "a positive act in the context of the search for a negotiated settlement."

Reading a carefully-worded statement, the official spokesman of the FIS leadership in exile said: "We believe the time has come to envisage a policy of peace which leads to giving the Algerian people their say in freedom."

At least 3,500 people have been killed in worsening violence between Muslim guerrillas and the security forces since an army-backed council cancelled a general election in January 1992 in which the FIS had taken a commanding lead.

Mr. Kebir, who has political asylum in Germany, said the conditions for negotiating a settlement with President Liamine Zeroual, appointed by the military in February, were the release of political prisoners and the FIS's jailed leaders, who must be able to meet exiled and underground Islamist leaders freely.

Mr. Kebir said contacts between Mr. Zeroual and the

imprisoned FIS leaders, which began before he was appointed president and have been acknowledged by the Algerian presidency, were continuing.

He also said the Algerian authorities had tried to establish contact with the exiled FIS leadership through "countries which are close to them."

He declined to give details, saying matters were at a sensitive stage. However, he denied a report in the Spanish newspaper El Pais that he had been contacted by the leader of the moderate Islamic party Hamas, Mahfoud Nahnah, on behalf of the Algerian authorities to return from exile and negotiate.

Mr. Malek, who resigned on Monday after implementing a major devaluation and sending a letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund, opening the way for a \$1 billion loan and debt relief talks, had publicly opposed dialogue with the FIS.

In his first statements in office, Mr. Sifi called for national dialogue and "a break with the negative practices of the past."

Mr. Kebir said Mr. Malek had ordered "massacres" and "repeated summary executions" in an effort to terrorise the population and had sought to make the rich richer and the poor poorer by signing a deal with the IMF.

"Of course the people consider that these accords have no legitimacy," he said.

Suspect in anti-Saddam plot shot dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Sheikh Taleh Ali Al Subeili, a prominent Iraqi dissident identified as a key figure in an alleged plot to overthrow President Saddam Hussein last year, has been shot to death in Beirut, security sources said Wednesday.

Two Iraqis suspected of being accomplices in the slaying, Mohammad Kamel Faris and Khaled Alwan Khalaf, have been arrested, the sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the assassin as Hadi Hassan, an Iraqi suspected of being Iraqi intelligence agent.

They said Subeili, 64, was killed in his house in Beirut's seaside 'Ain Al Tneib district shortly before midnight Tuesday. He was shot in the head by a gunman who fired a single round from a silenced, equipped pistol.

Iraqi sources said Hassan was seen getting into a BMW car with two other men and fleeing the murder scene.

Hassan is believed to have taken refuge in the Iraqi embassy in Beirut's Hazzmeh district and efforts were under way to have him handed over to police, the Lebanese sources said.

The Lebanese sources had no details of the alleged plot against President Saddam.

But the Free Iraq Council, a London-based dissident organisation, said in a statement that Subeili, a Shiite Muslim, was a pivotal figure in a plan by several senior Iraqi generals and others to topple President Saddam in July 1993.

The statement said Subeili was a member of its central committee. The organisation is headed by Saad Jabr, son of a former Iraqi prime minister. Subeili, a longtime leading figure in the anti-Saddam opposition, headed the Tami clan, which controls the highway between Baghdad and Tikrit. President Saddam's hometown and power base north of the Iraqi capital.

Iraqi dissident sources told the Associated Press that Subeili fled Iraq in 1958 after a failed coup attempt against the then president, General Abdul Karim Qassem.

He returned three years later after Qassem was toppled and killed. But he fled Baghdad again in 1968 when President Saddam's predecessor and uncle, Ahmad Hassan Bakr, took power.

Subeili lived in Amman until four months ago. He was married to a Lebanese and so was his daughter.

He left Amman after receiving alleged death threats from the Baghdad regime and was on a short visit to Beirut when he was slain.

The Iraqi sources said Subeili, along with prominent members of the Sunni Muslim minority from Iraq regions which have in the past been key supporters of the Baghdad regime, had planned to topple President Saddam in a military-led coup last July.

Subeili denied that in a November interview with Jordan's Akher Khabar weekly newspaper, and said he had never tried to topple the Baghdad regime.



KLESTIL IN PETRA: Austrian President Thomas Klestil (left) and Jordanian King Hussein (right) during a visit to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra on Wednesday. Dr. Klestil ended a three-day visit to Jordan later in the day and flew home (see page 1)

Turkish official ends 'highly satisfying' visit, heads for Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Turkish official headed for Baghdad on Wednesday after two days of talks here described as highly positive and a contribution towards consolidation of Jordanian-Turkish relations.

Ozdem Sanberk, under-secretary of the Ankara Foreign Ministry, had come to Amman for "consultations with Jordanian officials on various issues of common interest and bilateral relations," said Mehmet Ali Irtemelik, the Turkish ambassador to Jordan.

"The under-secretary left Jordan highly satisfied at the level of bilateral relations," Mr. Irtemelik told the Jordan Times. "Close consultations will continue between Turkey and Jordan and we are happy to note that there is no outstanding issues between the two sides."

Mr. Sanberk was received by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan. In addition to bilateral relations, discussions during the meetings focused on the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Balkans and the Caucasus in the former Soviet Union, the ambassador said.

He said on most issues Jordanian and Turkish views were identical.

Mr. Sanberk left Amman early Wednesday on an overland trip to Baghdad in the first such senior-level visit to the Iraqi capital by a Turkish official.

His talks with Iraqi officials will mainly deal with an oil pipeline that runs from Iraq's Kirkuk fields to a Mediterranean terminal at Ceyhan, Turkey, as well as issues related to Turkish-Iraqi relations, diplomatic sources said.

Turkey, a member of the American-led anti-Iraq coalition formed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, closed the pipeline immediately

Crown Prince meets Sanberk

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday received at the Royal Court Under-Secretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry Ozdem Sanberk and a delegation accompanying him. Prince Hassan and Mr. Sanberk discussed Jordanian-Turkish relations and means of promoting them. The Crown Prince briefed Mr. Sanberk on Jordan's role in supporting the Middle East peace process, outlining the repercussions on Jordan of the embargo imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

ly after the U.N. Security Council imposed a sweeping trade embargo against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait.

Ankara also allowed Turkish territory to be used in the allied war which ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February 1991. But since then Turkey has advocated a speedy end to the sanctions against Iraq while insisting that Baghdad comply with the various U.N. resolutions related to the Gulf crisis.

Turkey is one of the few coalition members to have reopened its embassy in Baghdad. Mr. Sanberk's visit to Baghdad comes in response to an invitation extended to him when his Iraqi counterpart, Riyad Al Qaisi, visited Ankara in January. Ambassador Irtemelik said, confirming that the talks in Iraq would deal with the oil pipeline.

Other diplomatic sources said Mr. Sanberk would also discuss with Iraqi officials the overall impact of the sanctions against Iraq and explore how Turkey could help its neighbour in its efforts to end or at least ease the crippling embargo.

Turkey is anxious to resume trade with Iraq and the flow of

Iraqi oil through its territory. Ankara used to collect around \$250 million annually in oil transit charges from Iraq prior to the Gulf crisis.

Experts said Turkey was worried that an estimated 7.5 million barrels of oil that remain trapped inside the twin 1,000-kilometre pipeline might cause corrosion and damage it beyond repair by the time the sanctions against Iraq are lifted and Baghdad is allowed to resume oil exports. Another two million barrels of Iraqi crude remain in terminals.

Turkish separatist rebels have tried to sabotage the pipeline several times.

Turkey reportedly proposed during Mr. Qaisi's visit that the oil in the pipeline be emptied and the proceeds used to carry out maintenance and repair on the structure.

According to the diplomatic sources, Turkey has secured the approval of the U.S. and other allies in the anti-Iraq coalition to broach the subject with the Baghdad government. But, under a tacit accord with the allies, Ankara is not supposed to adopt any unilateral action that might violate the principles of the sanctions, they said.

The sources linked the possible emptying of the pipeline to a U.N. offer to allow a one-time sale of Iraqi oil worth \$1.6 billion to help pay U.N. costs related to the Gulf crisis and finance the import of food and medicine to Iraq. Baghdad has steadfastly turned down the offer saying it would violate Iraqi sovereignty.

About one third of the oil in the pipeline and terminals is claimed by Turkey as settlement of outstanding Iraqi payments. The U.N. Security Council, according to the diplomats, has agreed that Turkey could appropriate that quantity but the world body has not taken a decision on the Iraqi share of the oil.

Mr. Sanberk is scheduled to spend two days in Baghdad.

COLUMN

Tests virtually confirm remains are czar's

MOSCOW (AP) — New genetic tests have confirmed beyond a reasonable doubt that bones and skulls found in a Siberian forest in 1991 are those of Russia's last czar and his family, a genetic expert said Tuesday. But a mystery remains over the fate of the heir of emperor Nicholas II — his son Alexei — and one of the czar's daughters, either Anastasia or Maria. Dr. Pavel Ivanov of Russia, who examined the remains with a British team led by Dr. Peter Gill, said Tuesday it's now 99.9 per cent certain the bones are those of the czar, his wife Alexandra and three of their four daughters. The scientists reached a similar conclusion last July based on earlier testing, but acknowledged a 1.5 per cent chance they were wrong. "After additional research, we have become even more certain that the remains belonged to the czar's family," Dr. Ivanov told the Associated Press by telephone. Dr. Ivanov said he drew genetic material from bones and compared the DNA with samples from living relatives of the czar's family. Nicholas II, Alexandra, their five children and four servants are all believed to have died on July 17, 1918, in the Ural Mountains when a Bolshevik firing squad put an end to the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty. The skeletons of five females and four males were dug up from a pit in a forest near the city of Yekaterinburg, 1,500 kilometres (900 miles) east of Moscow, in July 1991. British and Russian scientists identified them as belonging to the czar and his wife, three of their daughters, three servants and the family doctor, Sergei Botkin. The new findings did nothing to answer questions about the fate of the czar's other two children. Some scholars say they could be buried elsewhere, or their remains might have been destroyed. Their absence also gave new credence to various people's claims of being the czar's children, although many scientists dismiss those claims.

New York Times gets 3 Pulitzers

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times captured three Pulitzer Prizes Tuesday, including its first for photography and one for its coverage of the World Trade Centre bombing. The Chicago Tribune took two awards. The 1994 Pulitzer for Public Service Journalism went to the Akron Beacon Journal for stories on local racial attitudes and the paper's attempts to improve communication in the northern Ohio city. "This is not really the Beacon Journal's prize," said managing editor Glenn Guzzo. "There would be no Pulitzer Prize without the enormous community response to the stories." The Times' three prizes provided a fitting sendoff for retiring executive editor Max Frankel. "It's a special thrill to win for a foreign photo, brilliant national feature writing and hard-hitting local news," Mr. Frankel said. "It's just sensational. It's my last as editor. What a way to go." The Providence Journal-Bulletin in Rhode Island won the prize for investigative reporting for stories that disclosed pervasive corruption within the state's court system.

More allegations on Clinton surface anew

WASHINGTON (AP) — An American magazine is reporting new allegations about the private exploits of president and Hillary Rodham Clinton, based on an account by an Arkansas state policeman who served on Mr. Clinton's security detail. In its May editions, the magazine American Spectator quoted policeman L.D. Brown as saying that he solicited women as sexual partners for Mr. Clinton. Mr. Brown said he did not know if Mr. Clinton had sex with all the women. Mr. Brown said his role involved "just approaching women for him in a fashion of (his) saying, 'who is that girl? Find out who she is, get a phone number for me.'" American Spectator, an arch conservative infant terrible of the magazine World, has reported previously on these allegations, which have helped its circulation double over the past year from 114,000 to 258,000.